

## PREWORSHIP MUSIC

## GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Genesis 1)<sup>1</sup>

Pastor: In the beginning God created all things,

*All: and God saw that they were good.*

Pastor: At our beginning, God created us

*All: unique and irreplaceable,*

Pastor: loved and wanted by God,

*All: known and treasured, even before our first breath.*

Pastor: In all our new beginnings, God creates something new

*All: so we will seek God in the freshness of this morning,  
in the laughter of friends,  
in the colors of creation,  
and in the beauty of this place.*

Pastor: Lord God, King of Creation,

*All: open our eyes to see your presence,*

Pastor: our souls to sense your presence,

*All: and our hearts to love you,*

Pastor: here in your creation,

*All: and beyond it in eternity.*

*Amen.*

## HYMN

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

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### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Based on Genesis 15:1-8)<sup>2</sup>

*All people: We hear the call to trust in God always, but honestly, some days our stresses and doubts are even more real to us than God, and trust is elusive. We remember how Abram dared to believe in God's promises, but belief like that is hard to come by. We are often inclined to think, "God helps those who help themselves," instead of daring to rely on the word of our Creator. When the world seems filled with dangers, we can be quick to protect ourselves, and we forget the wisdom of scripture, which reminds us that we find traces of evil both outside and inside of ourselves. With God's help, we confront our fears and struggles, and we call upon a power greater than our own to resist their pull. Hear us, Holy One, as we confess our frailty and failings. (Pause for reflection)*

### ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Pastor: Though fear should beset us; though danger cause us to close up our doors though troubles assail and lead us away from the ways of grace; only one thing is necessary: just turn back to God's promise of grace. Remember that God is reaching out with loving arms and let yourself be held. Only ask for forgiveness, and it is ours: know that in this moment we have asked and in Christ Jesus, we are forgiven.

*All people: Thanks be to God!*

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.wellsprings.org.uk/liturgies/creation.htm>). Posted on Third Space blog. <http://third-space.org.uk/blog>

<sup>2</sup> United Church of Christ. Worship Ways Archives: Lent 2, Proper 14C

**PASTORAL PRAYER<sup>3</sup> & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Almighty God, your Spirit swept over the waters of creation, and you are sweeping over us now, creating something new. Call us away from the distractions of the world to experience what you are doing now, in us, and through us, and in our world. Open us to a new awakening, a new beginning, where we look through the lens of the goodness of your creation, experiencing all possibilities in you. Turn us away from the negative lens and lead us to the light. In the name of Jesus, who leads us into life, we continue to pray as he taught us:

*All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

**OFFERING<sup>4</sup>**

Pastor: Every time we come to the moment of offering, it's a crossroads. There is an inner struggle between selfishness and generosity, a pull between fear of the future and faith in God's providence. Let us pause for a minute, a full 60 seconds to ponder the struggle, because it is real. Let us pause and ponder our relationship with fear and faith.

(Pause for Personal Reflection)

Pastor: Committed to the giving of our whole selves, let us dedicate our offerings with a prayer.

*All people: We give our offering this morning, Lord, stepping out in faith and down the road of grace. We do this together, as your people, called and sent to be a blessing for all the world. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.*

**HYMN**

*This is a Day of New Beginnings* (Verses 1-4, only)

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**BENEDICTION<sup>5</sup>** (Based on Genesis 28:13-15)

Pastor: As we go from here, hear again the promises of God, made long ago to our ancestors, and are still true for us today:

*All people: "I am the Lord your God...  
Know that I am with you,  
and will keep you wherever you go.  
I will not leave you  
until I have done everything that I have promised."*

Pastor: Let's go into the world to serve,  
in the assurance that our faithful God goes with us.

*All: Amen.*

**POSTLUDE**

<sup>3</sup> Rev. Mindi, on her **Rev-o-lution** blog. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

<sup>4</sup> leadinginworship: worship resources in a Mennonite voice for ears of all kinds: September 06, 2014. <https://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/prayers-offering>.

<sup>5</sup> re:worship. Benediction:28. July 5, 2011. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/07/benediction-genesis-28.html>

# O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 96

N.C.  $\frac{G}{B}$  G D G D7 Em D G  $\frac{D7}{F\#}$  G D

1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,  
 3 Je-sus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease,  
 4 He breaks the power of can-celled sin, he sets the pris-oner free;  
 5 To God all glo-ry, praise, and love be now and ev-er given

D G  $\frac{G}{B}$  C  $\frac{G}{D}$  D7 G

the glo-ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
 to spread thro' all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
 'tis mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.  
 his blood can make the foul-est clean, his blood a-vailed for me.  
 by saints be-low and saints a-bove, the Church in earth and heaven.

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.  
 MUSIC: Carl G. Gläser (1784-1829); arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

AZMON  
 C.M.

# 355 This Is a Day of New Beginnings

*Unison*

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re - mem - ber  
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, love's might - y Spir - it,  
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the past and  
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and share what  
 \*4 *In faith we'll gath - er round the ta - ble to taste and share what*

and move on, time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,  
 now as then, can make for us a world of dif - ference,  
 leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,  
 love can do. This is a day of new be - gin - nings;  
*love can do. This is a day of new be - gin - nings;*

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.  
 our God is mak - ing all things new.  
*our God is mak - ing all things new.*

\*Alternate text for Holy Communion