

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

489

Horatius Bonar, 1846; alt.

Matt. 11:28-30; John 4:7-15; 8:12

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad,
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
4 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;

Lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
And there I found a rest - ing place, where Je - sus made me glad!
The liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, draw near, and drink, and live."
My thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I am re - deemed.

5 I heard the voice of Je - sus say,
"I am this lost world's Light,
Look un - to me; your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright."

6 I looked to Je - sus, and I found
my guid - ing Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll go
till trav - eling days are done.

Horatius Bonar was one of the founders of the Free Church of Scotland. A man of wide scholarship and great devotion to his ministry, he wrote nearly one book a year, as well as some 600

Tune: EVAN C.M.
William H. Havergal, 1847
Arr. Lowell Mason. 1850

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

When Morning Guilds the Skies

Chime Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor:

When morning guilds the skies,
and the world is still dark and full of hate and fear,
when we cannot see God -

All:

we will turn on the light.

Pastor:

When we cannot find our way back to love and peace -

All:

we will turn on the light.

Pastor:

When our vision dims due to the darkness within -

All:

we will turn on the light.

Pastor:

Christ opens our eyes with the gift of sight.

All:

The light of the world is Jesus Christ.

Pastor:

Come and worship the One
who brings sight to the blind.

All:

Thanks be to God for Jesus, the Light of the world!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All:

Triune God, who created us in God's own image, we are grateful for all that you have done for us, for all that you are doing in us, and for all that you will do through us. Open our eyes to see your presence among us, moving in powerful ways at all times and in all places. Open our ears to hear familiar words in new ways—ways that will change us and challenge us to become the people you created us to be. Grant us the power and the courage to come out of the darkness and into the light of Jesus Christ, that we may serve you by serving others. We love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Amen.

HYMN

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say Bulletin, Page 4

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor:

We hear Jesus calling, yet our eyesight is limited and so we often midjudge people and situations. Our view of things may be far from the way God sees the circumstances of our lives and relationships. Individually and together, we are involved in sin that cuts us off from what God expects of us. Let us confess our need for forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain, we would rather shut our eyes and be blind than see things as they really are. Give us the courage to face the reality of our world, and give us the strength to bring your light to those who walk in darkness. Help us see others as you see them and forgive us when we do not trust you enough to open our eyes to the possibilities before us. Heal our self-inflicted blindness, O God, and lead us in the footsteps of the Light of the World, who reveals your glory in his life, his teachings, and his love. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Christ came to lead us in paths of righteousness and to guide us through life. Christ is with us in times of danger and times of peace. The goodness and mercy of God are given to us each and every day.

Congregation: God forgives us for our failings, upholds us in love, and leads us to the place that Christ has prepared for us.

Pastor: Believe in your heart that God loves you and forgives you.

All: We believe! God help our unbelief!

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Joshua 24:1-1-2a, 14-15

GOSPEL READING – John 9:1-41

SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Laura C. Baker

SPECIAL MUSIC

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling

Chime Choir

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: God has given us all that is good and right and true. What a joy to share these gifts in the life of this community and far beyond our own reach. With a prayer of gratitude and joyful eagerness, let us return to God an offering and a re-commitment of our time, talent, and money.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Loving God, as you illuminate our lives with fascinating insights and possibilities, we reach out to share your love through our tithes and offerings and our investment of time and energy in tasks to which you call us. All this we offer now for your blessing, for apart from you, the light goes out of our lives, and we slip into meaningless existence. Let us, rather, share your story and serve you wherever we go. Amen.

HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

Hymnal, #467

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go into the world, carrying the light of Christ into the darkness!

Congregation: We go, with full hearts and open eyes!

Receive God's love and care and share that love and care with others!

Congregation: We go, with eyes reflecting God's light and hands open to share it!

May you walk in the light of Christ all the days of your life!

Congregation: We will follow Christ wherever he leads us!

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE