



MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICE

JANUARY 15, 2025 . 12:00 PM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Fugue in C Major, BWV 547

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: When we pass through the cleansing waters of baptism and the troubled waters of our lives, God declares:

People: **I will be with you.**

Minister: When we go through the fires that refine us and the fires that threaten our livelihoods, God declares:

People: **I will be with you.**

Minister: Even when we travel to the far corners of the earth or down into the depths of our souls, God declares:

People: **I will be with you.**

Minister: So come, let us worship God whose love never fails, whose presence never leaves, whose mercies never end.

People: **Praise be to God who, in the form of Jesus, waded into the waters of baptism to prove God's solidarity with us! Amen.**

HYMN 529 *

How Firm a Foundation

Foundation

1. How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4. "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - ways shall lie,
 5. "The soul that on Je - sus still leans for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
 for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can he say than to you he hath said,
 I'll strength - en and help thee, and cause thee to stand
 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *

Minister: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

People: Loving God, Creator of all things, we gather amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love and strengthen us to proclaim your hope throughout the world. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Minister: Hear the good news: God's steadfast love endures forever! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

THE LESSON Isaiah 43:1-7

† following the reading

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

God's Faithful Presence

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming

Traditional German Carol
Harmonization: Michael Praetorius
(1571-1621)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior, when half spent was the night.

William Green, *tenor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 140 *

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Faithfulness

1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en - dur-eth, thine own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy

hand hath pro - vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

BLESSING *

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Prelude in C Major, BWV 547

J. S. Bach

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Byrd, *Associate Minister*

Music: Jonathan Easter, *Guest Organist*

For information on upcoming worship services please visit www.prumc.org.

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