

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE³ (in unison)

**Too often, O God,
we are hesitant in our proclamation;
seeking safe and suitable opportunities to speak of our faith.**

**Too often, O God,
we are half-hearted in our service;
reluctant to stand out from the crowd or to attract criticism.**

**Too often, O God,
we live as if dependent wholly on our own resources;
relying on our perceived skills and modest insights.**

**Too often, O God,
we look to the clouds for our inspiration,
in the vain hope of finding you there.**

**Forgive the poverty of our efforts and the frailty of our faith
and open wide our hearts and minds to the immanent presence
of our Risen, Living and Ascended Savior Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE¹

***HYMN**

'Now the Green Blade Rises'

No. 230

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco

SONG OF PREPARATION

'Here I Am To Worship' (refrain only)

So here I am to worship. Here I am to bow down.
Here I am to say that You're my God.
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:6-14

⁶ As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "It isn't for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

⁹ After Jesus said these things, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going away and as they were staring toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood next to them. ¹¹ They said, "Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven."

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem—a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter, John, James, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James, Alphaeus' son; Simon the zealot; and Judas, James' son— ¹⁴ all were united in their devotion to prayer, along with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

IMPROVISED MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Anton Faynberg

During this time, we invite you to embrace the transition from hearing the word to gathering ourselves in prayer by taking a moment for quiet reflection either in your pew, or by coming forward to light a candle to give light to the prayer(s) on your heart that have no words to be expressed.

Come and Light a Candle...



PASTORAL PRAYER

We will continue to share prayer concerns among the congregation by lifting up the name of a person, or naming a situation, at which point Pastor Jeff will repeat the concern raised. Once Pastor Jeff has repeated the concern the entire congregation will respond with "God in your mercy, hear our prayer". Once we have concluded sharing our prayer concerns Pastor Jeff will begin today's pastoral prayer, followed by the prayer of Jesus.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS *(in unison)*

Our Creator (Father) who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

'Soon and Very Soon'

Traditional Spiritual

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

'Go Into the World'

Natalie Sleeth

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

'Take My Gifts' (vs. 3)

No. 381

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹**

***HYMN**

'Let the Whole Creation Cry'

No. 21

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Anton Faynberg

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Anton Faynberg, Organist/Pianist

Alisa Cassola, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

¹Sine, Christine. "Ascension Day Litany: Because Jesus Ascended." *Ascension Day Litany: Because Jesus Ascended*, 13 May 2014, re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/05/ascension-day-litany-because-jesus.html.

²Author, Unknown. "Opening Prayer: Ascension." *Opening Prayer: Ascension*, re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/04/opening-prayer-ascension.html. Accessed 17 May 2023.

³MacDougall, Rev. Malcolm. "Prayer of Confession: Ascension." *Prayer of Confession: Ascension*, re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/04/prayer-of-confession-ascension.html. Accessed 17 May 2023.

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Applications due
June 1st

If you are headed to higher education and a part of our beloved community, you are welcome to apply for the scholarships we have available. We will recognize scholarship recipients on Sunday June 11 in morning worship.

Click the link in the Nearly Weekly for the application or contact Dani at ce@brocktonucc.org with any questions

Crown Him with Many Crowns 234

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne.
 2. Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave,
 3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4. Crown him the Lord of love; bé - hold his hands and side,

Hark! how the heaven-ly an-them drowns all mu-sic but its own.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save;
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.
 those wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau-ty glo - ri - fied.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 his glo - ries now we sing who died, and rose on high,
 His reign shall know no end, and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874
 MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1868

DIADEMATA
 SMD

Now the Green Blade Rises

230

Unison

1. Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2. In the grave they laid the love by ha - tred slain,
 3. Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
 4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that Je - sus would not wake a - gain,
 who that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, the ris - en Christ is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;

Love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

WORDS: John M. C. Crum, 1928
 MUSIC: French carol

NOËL NOUVELET
 11 10.10 11

Words © 1928 Oxford University Press

♩=72-80

1. Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of
 2. Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your
 3. Take what - ev - er I can of - fer gifts that I have

all loved me, gave me light and food and shel - ter,
 Spir - it sowed, har - vest of your own com - pas - sion,
 yet to find, skills that I am slow to sharp - en,

gave me life and set me free, now be - cause your
 juice that makes the wine of God, spiced with hu - mor,
 tal - ents of the hand and mind, things made beau - ti -

love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
 laced with laugh - ter fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
 ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray, 1988
 MUSIC: Colin Gibson, 1988

TALAVERA TERRACE
 87.87D

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♩=112-120

now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to
 tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be
 take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of

mul - ti - ply!
 yond be - lief.

all loved me.

Let the Whole Creation Cry

1. Let the whole cre - a - tion cry,
 2. All who strive to serve the Lord, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. Men and wom - en, young and old,

"Glo - ry be to God on high!"
 Proph - ets burn - ing with God's word, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Raise the an - them man - i - fold,

Sun and moon, lift up your voice,
 Those to whom the arts be - long, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Join with chil - dren's songs of praise,

Night and stars, in God re - jice,
 Add your voic - es to the song, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Wor - ship God through all your days,

Words: Stopford A. Brooke, 1881, alt.
 Music: Robert Williams, 1817

LLANFAIR
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