



SUMMER WORSHIP  
MONTREAT CONFERENCE CENTER

July 13, 2025, 10:30 a.m.  
Anderson Auditorium

GATHERING

Opening

(Glory to God 399)

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

This tune from South Africa and text by John L. Bell affirm the expansive welcome of God. That expansiveness is also evoked in words from *The Song of the Three Young Men*, sung by Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in a portion of chapter 3 of the Book of Daniel normally included in the Apocrypha in Protestant Bibles. Both songs cast a wide vision of creation and divine love.

Bless the Lord, mountains and hills;  
bless the Lord, all that grows from the earth.  
**Praise and exalt our God forever.**

*Daniel 3*

Bless the Lord, O springs of water;  
bless the Lord, seas and rivers.  
**Praise and exalt our God forever.**

Bless the Lord, you whales;  
bless the Lord, all that swim in the depths of the seas.  
**Praise and exalt our God forever.**

Bless the Lord, all birds of the air;  
bless the Lord, beasts of the wild and cattle.  
**Praise and exalt our God forever.**

All who worship the Lord, bless the God of gods,  
sing praise and give thanks,  
**for God's mercy endures forever.**

\*Hymn 402 How Lovely, Lord

MERLE'S TUNE

\*Prayer of the Day

This hymn is based on Psalm 84's vision of God's dwelling, within whose walls are grace, room, the company of saints, and "rivers of blessing."

## Confession and Pardon

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sick-sin soul.  
Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

God, by your grace, **forgive us.**

*Silence*

For all we should be and all we can amend,  
**may God renew us.**  
For all God has in store for us and may demand of us,  
**may God prepare us.**  
To the life of the world and the love of its people,  
**may God commit us.**

\*Hymn    Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me    GLORY TO GOD

\*Peace

Hear and embrace these words of Jesus:  
 "You are forgiven. Go in peace. Come and follow me."  
 The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

WORD

## Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Jonah 1:1-3; 3:2-5, 10; 4:1-4

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "The Scandal of Grace" The Reverend Kevin Long

## RESPONDING

\*Hymn 351 All Who Love and Serve Your City CHARLESTOWN

\*Affirmation from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God.  
**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

In this hymn, “the city” is poetically layered. It might be any dwelling, community, or place where God’s people live and work and where redemption is possible—all glimpses of the city of God.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
**In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image,  
of every race and people, to live as one community.**

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.  
**Ignoring God's commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
We deserve God's condemnation.**

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.  
**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.**

With believers in every time and place,  
**we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

### Prayers of the People

music: Paul Friesen-Carper

I called to the Lord out of my dis - tress and you an-swered me,  
and you an-swered me. Out of the bel - ly of the  
deep I cried, and you heard my voice, and you heard my voice.

You cast me into the heart of the waters.  
Wave after wave came crashing over me.  
I said, "I am driven from your sight.  
How shall I look upon your temple again?" R

Even my soul was engulfed in the water.  
I sank to where the mountains have their roots,  
to the land whose bars were closed on me.  
O Lord my God, you brought me up from the pit! R

My life was wandering, but you I remembered.  
My prayer into your holy temple came.  
With thanksgiving I will sacrifice.  
To you, O Lord, does all salvation belong. R

This sung prayer's words come from Jonah 2: the prayer Jonah makes from within the belly of the whale.

## Offerings

Come, fathers and mothers –  
come, sisters and brothers –  
come, join us in singing the praises of Zion!  
O people, don't you feel determined  
to meet within the walls of Zion?  
We'll shout and go round the walls of Zion!

American folk hymn  
arr. Aaron Copland

In this folk hymn, the walls of the city of God – within and without – resound with redemption and praise. In response, we sing, as earlier, of a welcoming, endless love.

*all singing:*

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The image shows a musical score for two voices, Treble and Bass clef, in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and homophonic, using mostly chords. The lyrics are: 'God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;' and 'God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.'

## \*Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

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 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.

## SENDING

\*Hymn 19 God of Great and God of Small GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

\*Benediction and Charge

\*Voluntary Concerto in F

G. F. Handel

In this hymn, God is the God of all life and all creation—the God “by whom the lost are found” and “whose love turns wrong to right.”