



# INTER-FAITH CHAPEL WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday January 14, 2024

## SILENT MEDITATION

*When I measure myself by the grasses, it seems I am very tall.*

*When I stand at the foot of a mountain, I feel I am really small.*

*When I look at the stars in the heavens, I marvel God sees me at all.*

- Unknown

## PRELUDE

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

Dorsey

Dr. Holly Oberle, Director of Music

## WORDS OF WELCOME

Dr. Woodie Rea

## LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

## INTROIT

*I Have Called You by Your Name*

Farah Kidwai

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: We have come to worship God,  
Who loves us before the beginning and beyond the end.*

**ALL: We have come to worship God,  
Who knows us even better than we know ourselves.**

*Leader: We have come to worship God,  
Whose presence never leaves us.*

**ALL: We have come to worship God,  
Whose love never ceases.**

**This is our God.**

**Let us worship together!**

## INVOCATION

✠ You may stand in body or in spirit.

*Music used by permission, CCLI #1683224*

**✠ OPENING HYMN**

*Be Thou My Vision*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**UNISON**

O God, you know our hearts and our thoughts. You know that even when we sit in quietness, our thoughts are far from quiet. You know we frequently wrestle with doubts and fears. You know our inner motivations and our sins, and you love us still. Forgive us for doubting your grace and mercy. Forgive us for questioning your presence and faithfulness. Forgive us, and help us to forgive ourselves and others. Through Christ our Lord and Light, we pray. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**✠ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God,  
God of mystery and wonder,  
God of courage and strength,  
God who sustains us each moment.

We follow Christ,  
Who showed us God, and shared God's grace.  
As fully human, he was fragile and vulnerable,  
As fully Divine, he possessed power and Presence beyond measure.

We live by the Holy Spirit,  
Who guides us through difficult and complicated times,  
Who supports us through the struggles of living in darkness, and  
Who calls us to help bring light to the night.

Where there is sorrow and despair,  
We believe God's grace and hope can bring light to the darkness.  
Where there is there is hatred and war,  
We believe God's love and peace can bring light to the darkness.  
Thanks be to God, for God's presence in darkness. Amen.

**✠ GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be;  
World without end. Amen. Amen.

# Be Thou My Vision

*Unison*

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

thou my best thought by day or by night,  
 thou my re - deem - er, my love thou hast won,  
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.  
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

WORDS: Irish song (8th century); tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.

MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1963

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## SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 139: 1-14

## PASTORAL PRAYER / 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

## SOLO

*Give Me Jesus*

Farah Kidwai

## SERMON

"God Is In The Darkness"

Dr. Woodie Rea

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

*How Can I Keep From Singing*  
Chancel Choir

Lowry

## DOXOLOGY

(Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## ✠ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## ✠ CLOSING HYMN     *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

## ✠ BENEDICTION

## ✠ BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Tune: Ar Hyd Y Nos

"Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

## ✠ POSTLUDE

*At the Lamb's High Feast*  
Dr. Holly Oberle, Dir. Of Music

Macchia

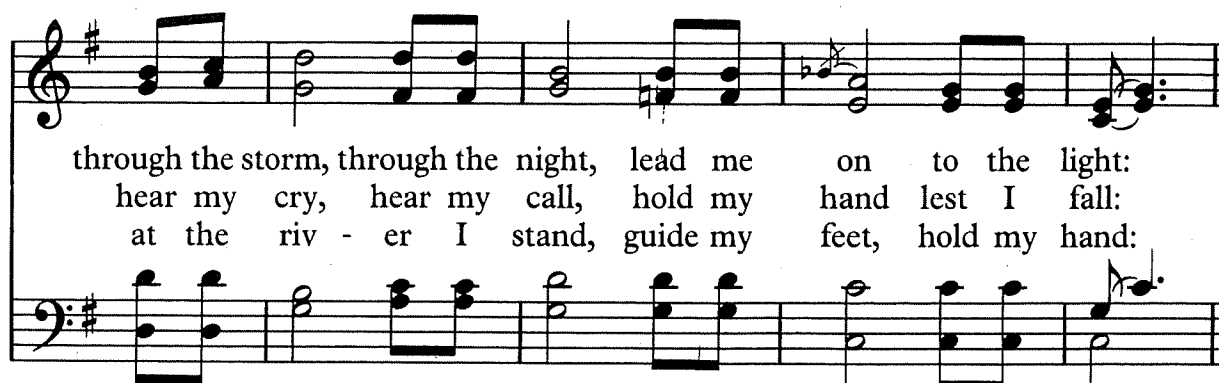
# Precious Lord, Take My Hand



1. Pre-cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
2. When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin-ger near,  
3. When the dark-ness ap-pears and the night draws near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
when my life is al-most gone,  
and the day is past and gone,



through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:  
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:  
at the riv-er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:



*Refrain*  
Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

### **WELCOME**

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us today! The Inter-Faith Chapel is committed to providing “*A House of Prayer for All People.*” We are seeking to share the love of God through caring, outreach, study, and worship. We extend a special welcome to our visitors and invite you to sign our *Visitor Register* and pick up an IFC coffee mug as our welcome gift to you. We hope that you will return to be with us again soon.

### **NEW MEMBER / AFFILIATE REGISTER**

If you are interested in joining The Inter-Faith Chapel, or would like more information about this vibrant faith community, please let us know by signing the *Member / Affiliate Register* (located in the Narthex on the desk next to the coat room).

We are planning to receive new members during our worship service on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Immediately following the service, there will be a reception with these new members, and all new members who have joined since the pandemic, as our honored guests. Come join the fellowship and refreshments!

### **MLK CELEBRATION**

Tomorrow, **Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM**, The Inter-Faith Chapel and The Leisure World Association for African American Culture, will host our annual Martin Luther King Celebration. Music will be provided by The Inter-Faith Chapel Gospel Choir with drumming offered by the Ogboni Harambee Drumming Circle and Percussion Ensemble.

The theme for this year’s celebration is *A New Dream for A New Day*, and the speaker for our service will be Rev. William H. Lamar, IV, pastor of the Metropolitan AME Church in Washington, DC. We hope you will join us as we remember, reconnect, and rededicate ourselves to keeping the dream alive.

### **OFFICE CLOSED**

The Chapel office will be closed on **Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>** in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please stop by the table in the Narthex to pick up your 2024 offering envelopes. There are various ways to give to The IFC (online credit card, direct deposit, bank check, etc.) but if you give by traditional check or cash, consider using the envelope system to help keep personal giving records more accurate. Call Bonnie for more information.

## CENTERING PRAYER

As we begin a new year, you are invited to take time to pause and contemplate the promises and hopes of 2024. Gather for a time of centering prayer with Spiritual Director Bertie Knisely and others in The IFC Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM**. Please call The Chapel office at 301-598-5312 or email facilitator Bertie Knisely directly at [bertiek@moravian.edu](mailto:bertiek@moravian.edu).

## USHERS NEEDED

Would you be willing to serve as an usher for morning worship services one Sunday a month? The duties include welcoming parishioners and handing out bulletins, collecting the offering, and possibly serving or assisting with communion distribution.

There will be an Ushers meeting/training on **Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM** in the Sanctuary for all new and seasoned ushers. Please contact Heidi Bender (Chair of Worship Committee) at 240-418-1518 or call The Chapel office at 301-598-5312.

## HEART HEALTH WORKSHOP

You are invited to a heart healthy brunch, followed by a healthy heart workshop on **Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon**. Our featured speaker is the renowned cardiologist, Dr. Patricia Davidson, of MedStar Washington Hospital Center. Dr. Davidson will present certain risk factors associated with heart disease and how it can be prevented through lifestyle choices and regular wellness visits. This event is free of charge and we anticipate it filling early so reserve your place by calling The Chapel office at 301-598-5312 by February 4<sup>th</sup>.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

The Inter-Faith Chapel has an active Intercessory Prayer Ministry. As a reminder, you are invited to place your prayer request card in the prayer box located in the Narthex. The requests will be shared with the prayer group and they will personally, diligently, and confidentially pray for your concern.

**THE INTER-FAITH CHAPEL**  
**3680 South Leisure World Blvd.**  
**Silver Spring, MD 20906**  
**301-598-5312**

**[www.inter-faithchapel.org](http://www.inter-faithchapel.org)**

**CHAPEL OFFICE HOURS**

**9:00 AM – 3:00 PM ♦ Monday – Friday**

***Rev. Dr. Woodie Rea, Senior Minister***

***Rev. Dr. Ramonia Lee, Minister of Congregational Life***

***Rev. Dr. Robert Perry, Minister Emeritus***

***Dr. Holly Oberle, Director of Music***

***Bonnie Bonner, Chapel Administrator***

***Joy Dufour, Administrative Assistant***

***Steve Buck, Gary Carpenter, Video Technicians and Sextons***