



INTER-FAITH CHAPEL WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday May 5, 2024

SILENT MEDITATION

*A friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.
Never above you. Never below you. Always beside you.*

- Walter Winchell

PRELUDE

I Am Thine, O Lord
Dr. Holly Oberle, Director of Music

Johnson

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dr. Woodie Rea

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

INTROIT

Draw the Circle Wide

Farah Kidwai

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Welcome to this community of faith where we are connected to God.

ALL: We come not as strangers, but as family and friends.

Leader: Here today, you will find love, freely available to you.

ALL: We give thanks for God's inclusive and unconditional love.

Leader: Here today, you will find relationship, fully accepting you just as you are.

ALL: We give thanks for our personal and meaningful relationship with Jesus.

Leader: We come with joy to this celebration of God's love!

ALL: We come with hope, to experience God's presence!

**May our worship today refresh our connection with God,
and renew our commitment to one another. Thanks be to God!**

INVOCATION

✦ OPENING HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. Ramonia Lee

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

UNISON

Jesus, our constant companion and eternal friend, you call us into relationship and teach us to live in your generous love. We instead, often walk away from our neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. We struggle to allow strangers into our lives or to see them as potential friends. We accept others with condition. We judge and condemn. Receive our confession, O Lord. Forgive our unfriendly ways and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead and on the third day he rose again. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. 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.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15: 9-17

ANTHEM

Reach Out To Your Neighbor
Farah Kidwai

Copeland

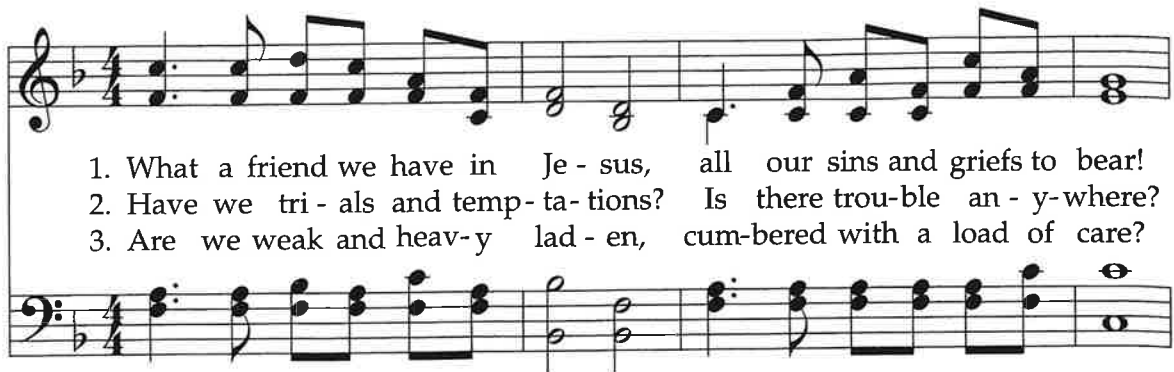
SERMON

“On Being A Friend”

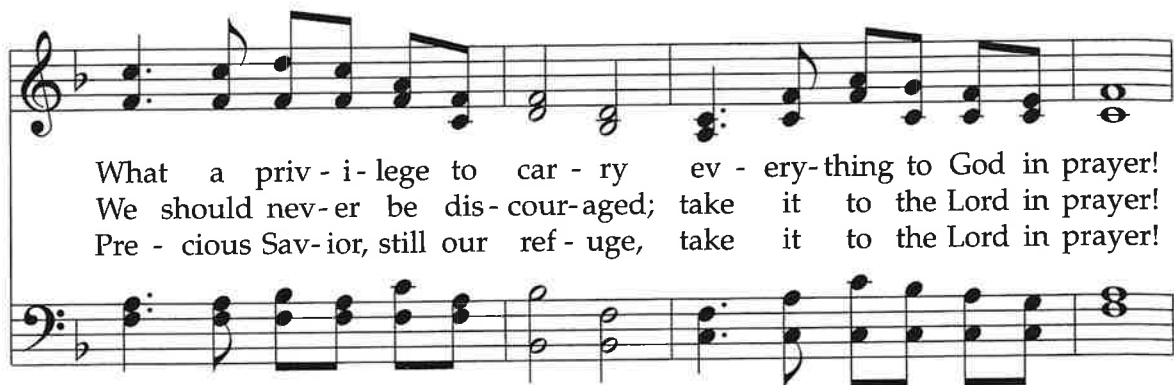
Dr. Woodie Rea

✦ You are invited to stand as you are comfortable.
Music used by permission, CCLI #1683224

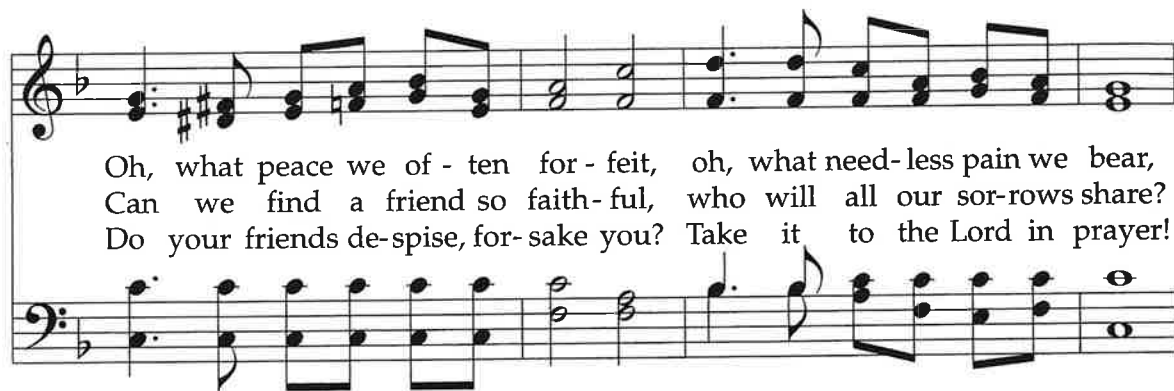
What a Friend We Have in Jesus



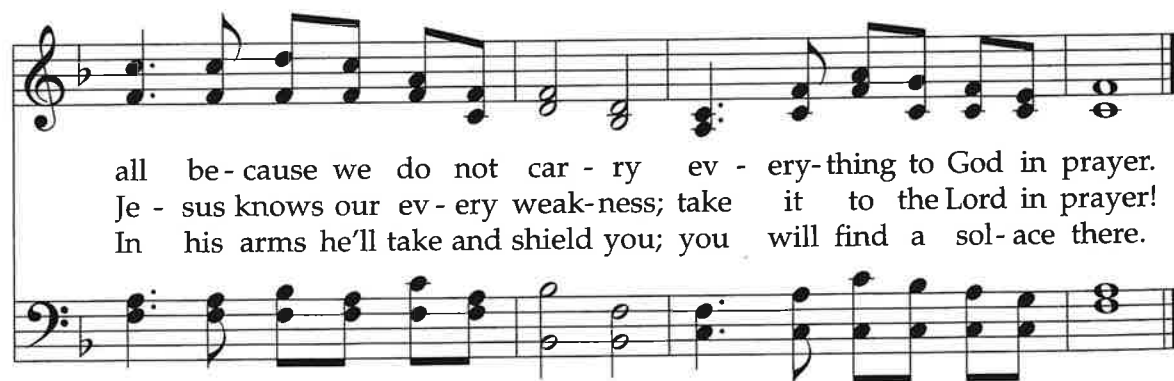
1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3. Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to the Lord in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer.
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

I've Got Peace Like a River
Chancel Choir

Hopson

✦ 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

COMMUNION HYMN

Jesu, Jesu

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Dr. Rea: Let us come to this table, not because we must, but because we may.

*Dr. Lee: Let us sit together in friendship as family,
rather than with differences as strangers.*

Dr. Rea: Let all who are hungry for the love of God, come and be fed.

Dr. Lee: Let all who are thirsty for new life, come and share the cup.

**ALL: Through Jesus, we confirm that God knows us, cherishes us, and loves us.
Through Jesus, we know that we are called as friends.**

*Dr. Rea: Christ's table is spread for us all.
Let us rejoice as we respond to God's invitation.*

COMMUNION PRAYER

UNISON

Gracious God, may this meal be for us an encounter with your presence as we break this bread and drink of this cup. May the sharing of this food be a taste of the joyful relationship we have with you, and with others. Send your Holy Spirit upon us, that this meal may be holy and that we may all be one. Hear us as we continue to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SUNG BY ALL

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 our 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.

Jesu, Jesu

Refrain (Unison)

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neighbors we have from you. *Fine*

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
 2. Neigh - bors are rich and poor, var - ied in col - or and
 3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
 4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we are
 5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

1. feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 2. race, neigh - bors are near and far a - way.
 3. love; all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
 4. slaves, this is the way we should live with you.
 5. feet, this is the way we should live with you. *D.C.*

WORDS: Tom Colvin, 1969
 MUSIC: Ghana folk song; arr. Tom Colvin, 1969; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

CHEREPONI
 Irr. w. refrain

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion is served in the PEWS on the LEFT SIDE of the sanctuary facing the cross. Wafers and individual grape juice cups will be passed in trays among the congregation.

Communion is served by INTINCTION on the RIGHT SIDE of the sanctuary facing the cross. Communicants will come forward and receive a wafer to dip in the chalice of wine.

Gluten-Free Communion is available from the ministers upon request. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask an usher for assistance.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

UNISON

Amazing God, we recognize your presence in this time and place and thank you for your presence in this meal. We thank you for giving us a taste of our kinship with you, and with others, through this meal. May this food strengthen us to be your happy and hopeful friends. Flow through us, living and healing God. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

✦ **CLOSING HYMN** *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

✦ **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**

Come, Thou Almighty King
Dr. Holly Oberle, Director of Music

Johnson

PARTING THOUGHT


*Oh, Father You've been my friend. Now that I'm in trouble, stand by me to the end.
Oh, Lord, I want You to stand by; stand by.*

*All of my money and my friends are gone. God, I'm in a mean world, and I'm so all alone.
Oh, oh, I need You Jesus; stand by, stand by.*



*When it seems like I don't have a friend, I wonder, would You be my friend?
Oh, stand closer; stand by, stand by.*

- Sam Cooke



Called as Partners in Christ's Service





1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is - tries of grace,
2. Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in- spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
4. So God grant us for to -mor -row ways to or -der hu-man life




we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
let us fol - low, nev - er fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-que-rs strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor - er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-enge, said with care,
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in - crease,



e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
blend-ing hu-man skills to - geth - er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.
bring new power and strength for ac - tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv - ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.



WORDS: Jane Parker Huber, 1981
MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER
87.87D

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 and we invite you join us on this journey.

If you are visiting with us this morning, we would appreciate having a record of your attendance. Please sign our *Visitor Register* next to the Sanctuary doors and pick up an IFC mug as our small gift along with a copy of our *Courier* newsletter.

If you are interested in joining The Inter-Faith Chapel, or in learning more about us, please let us know by signing the *Member / Affiliate Register* (located in the Narthex on the desk next to the coat room). We always enjoy talking with others about The Chapel!

SPRING FOOD DRIVE

The IFC Missions Committee is sponsoring a Food Drive on **Tuesday, May 7th and Wednesday, May 8th**. You may drop off your non-perishable food items under the Chapel portico between the hours of **10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**. Collected items will be given to Manna Food Center which works to end hunger in Montgomery County communities. Every contribution makes a difference. Please see the May Courier for a suggested food list.

CENTERING PRAYER

Each month, we offer a session of Centering Prayer led by Spiritual Director, Bertie Knisely. Please join us **this Wednesday, May 8th from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM** in our Fellowship Hall. Our time together involves deepening our personal prayer practices in a safe and guided setting. Centering prayer is a receptive, silent form of prayer that goes beyond words and thoughts to enhance our experience of God’s presence with us. To register, call the Chapel Office (301) 598-5312, or email facilitator Bertie Knisely at bertiek@moravian.edu.

BIBLE STUDY

Dr. Ramonia Lee will be leading an ongoing “Lunch & Learn Bible Study” that will meet on the third Monday at Noon during the months of May – September. The group will be reading and studying Adam Hamilton’s book *Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things The Bible Doesn’t Say*. To register for this study call The Chapel Office at 301-598-5312.

MUSIC CONCERT

The Music Department of The Inter-Faith Chapel will be offering a special concert on **Tuesday, May 21st at 6:00 PM**. Each component of our music program (Chancel Choir, Gospel Choir, Inter-Faith Ringers, and Generational Joy Dancers) will be featured, along with special organ selections from Dr. Oberle. Invite a neighbor to join you for this special evening of music that is certain to entertain and inspire you.