

AGAIN & AGAIN A LENTEN REFRAIN



MORRISTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WORSHIP GUIDE | LENT 2021
ASH WEDNESDAY—MARCH 21, 2021

INVITED

WRITTEN BY: REV. SARAH ARE | [SANCTIFIEDART.ORG](https://sanctifiedart.org)

I like to imagine that each year,
God invites me to a party.
God drops me a note that says,
“No gifts, casual dress. Come just as you are.”

I like to imagine that I am brave enough to go.
I like to imagine that I decide that I am worth it. This was no pity invite,
There is no obligatory postage. God wants me there.

So I get myself together,
Smudged glasses, sensitive ego, wrinkled shirt, and all.
I ring the doorbell a few minutes late on account of the fact that
I lost my keys twice trying to get out the door, And I almost turn back to hide in my car,
Afraid that I might embarrass myself over appetizers or small talk.
But then God answers the door, And God says, “You’re here!” And I smile, because I am.

And with every step past that threshold, I know that God is cheering me on.
It’s the pride of a parent watching their child take their first step.
If I freeze, God is not disappointed. If I fall, God is not mad.
But if I trust the invitation, If I move closer,
I know, God celebrates.

Friends, you’ve got mail.
It’s an invitation to dust off your shoes, To go deeper,
To trust that you’re worth it,
To lose your keys and your faith,
And then to find them both, along with your worth. You are invited.
We are invited.
Again and again and again.
This invitation is for you.

DAWN

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Isaiah 58:1-2

Paper lace over watercolor

A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



WORSHIP LEADERS

REV. LUANA COOK SCOTT, SENIOR PASTOR



LITURGISTS

Fabian Burgos
Holly Dinneny
Hayoung Kang
Mary Manwaring
Paola Marquez
Kristin Moran
Pearl Ontalan
Kevin Powell
Jacqueline Quinn
Leslie Raff
Jack Scharf
Samantha Schuetz
Sue Puma Vance

MUSICIANS

Charlie Buck
Kyler Coutts
Sarah Michal
Teresa Mitchell
Jennifer Yang, Accompanist

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Jim Ciprich
Audio Engineering
Winifred Bunch
Technical Producer
Kevin Vance & Austin Puma
Editing for TV/Cable
Regina Heater
Office Manager

WORSHIP ENVIRONMENT/ALTAR FLOWERS THROUGH LENT

Barbara Dabinett, in loving memory of Jack O'Brien
Virginia Lyttle, in loving memory of Alan Lyttle
Kristi Miller, in honor of Bennett's birthday

RESOURCES USED FOR WORSHIP

Prayers by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
Artwork noted by artist | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

The hymns printed in this worship guide are from the United Methodist Hymnal and The Faith We Sing. Formatting may appear slightly different to accommodate this printed guide.



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER

One: God meets us in the night—

All: Before the sun rises,

Before the wound heals,

Before there are answers,

Before there is closure.

One: God meets us in the light—

All: Where joy is effervescent,

Where laughter is contagious,

Where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,

And where people gather around the table.

One: God meets us at the threshold—

All: At the edge of the water,

At the beginning of the wilderness,

At the start of something new,

On the edge of faith.

One: And if God meets us in all those places,

Then surely God meets us in between—

All: Staying with us through the wilderness.

One: We are not alone. God is all around.

All: Let us worship the God of the here and now.

HYMN #660 God is Here

God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:9-15 | Genesis 9:8-17

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God who meets us where we are—
There is nowhere we can go that you are not.

All: You were with Jesus at his baptism.

You were with him in the wilderness,
And even in between, you were there,
Saying aloud, "This is my beloved."

One: We know that you are with us too—
In the good, the bad, and everything in between—
But so often we act like we are alone.

**All: Instead of coming to you with our hurt,
We hold it in or cast it onto others.**

Instead of coming to you with our joy,

We credit ourselves and offer you nothing.

One: How can we long for a deeper relationship with you

While living like you are nowhere to be found?

All: Forgive our self-centered ways.

Remind us that in every breath, in every step, you are there.

One: You are the God who meets us where we are.

All: Before and behind, above and below, within and around. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Family of faith, if you hear nothing else today, hear this:

God is here. God sees you. God knows you. God meets you at the edge of every new beginning,

And God calls you beloved.

All: We are washed by the water.

We are called beloved.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who is everywhere and right here,

Bigger than the sky and in the smallest details,

All at once and in every moment.

We believe that God meets us where we are—

In heartbreak and high hopes,

Around crowded tables and in quiet homes, In

joy and in suffering,

In loneliness and in connection,

In sanctuaries and in living rooms,

In marches and in waiting rooms.

We believe that nothing we do or leave undone

Can distance us from God's love.

God is forever drawing us close and pulling us in.

Again and again, God meets us where we are And

invites us into wholeness.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

DEDICATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #480 O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

○ Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths
its flow may richer, fuller be.

○ Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze
its day may brighter, fairer be.

○ Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

○ Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms
red life that shall endless be.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

IN OUR HANDS

by Rev. Lauren Wright-Pittman

Inspired by Genesis 9:8-17

Hand-carved block

with oil-based ink on paper

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660

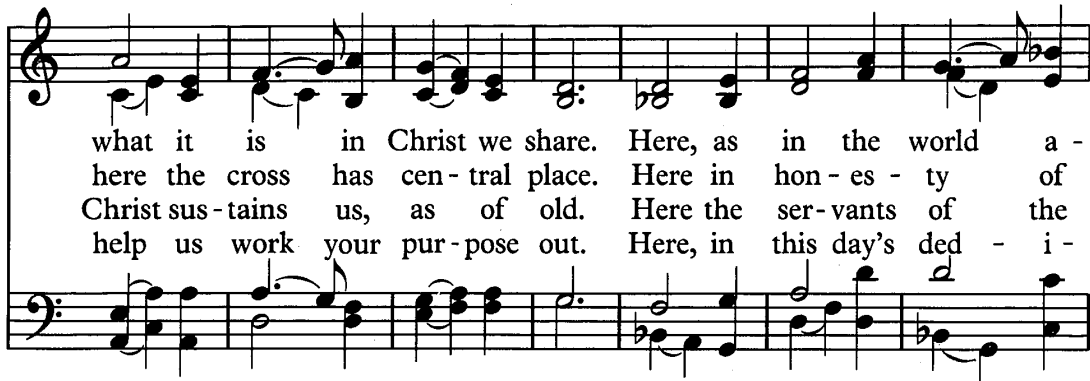
God Is Here



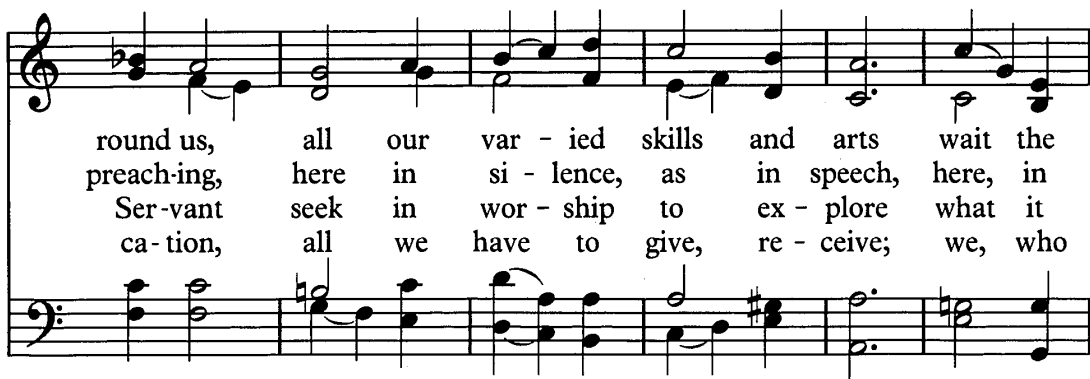
1. God is here! As we your peo-ple meet to of - fer
 2. Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3. Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep - herd's
 4. Lord of all, of church and king-dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea-sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul-pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak-en,
 change and doubt keep us faith-ful to the gos-pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world a -
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es - ty of
 Christ sus - tains us, as of old. Here the ser - vants of the
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's ded - i -



round us, all our var - ied skills and arts wait the
 preach-ing, here in si - lence, as in speech, here, in
 Ser-vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore what it
 ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive; we, who

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1978
 MUSIC: Cyril V. Taylor, 1941

ABBOT'S LEIGH
 87.87 D

Words © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1942, renewed 1970 Hope Publishing Co.

OPENING OF WORSHIP

com-ing of the Spir-it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 new-ness and re - new-al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 can-not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

1. O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my wea - ry soul in
 2. O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flick - ering torch to
 3. O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not close my heart to
 4. O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not ask to fly from

thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
 thee; my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that
 thee; I trace the rain - bow thru the rain, and
 thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
 in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.
 feel the prom - ise is not vain, that morn shall tear - less be.
 from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

Morristown UMC's Statement of Welcome

YOU are a child of God, beautiful and unique, and you are welcome here. We don't welcome you here to change or tolerate you, we welcome you here to celebrate you. You are welcome here because...

We believe that all people are children of God and are of sacred worth, and we welcome you to Morristown UMC!

We believe our lives have been transformed by choosing to follow Jesus Christ and His teachings.

We welcome all who seek Christ and a transformed life!

We believe the Bible is God's inspired Word. We use our experience, our intellect, and our traditions to interpret the scriptures.

We believe sexuality is God's gift to humanity. We recognize gender as a fluid concept, and human sexuality as a spectrum. We welcome all expressions of both. We welcome all who are in the process of discerning or transitioning.

We believe in the full rights of LGBTQIA+ Persons in the life of the church.

We believe in God's grace. We are not perfect. So, we welcome all who are imperfect and are a work in progress, seeking to live a redeemed life.

We believe we are citizens of the kingdom* of God which has no borders. Your birth certificate is of no importance to us. Therefore, we welcome those born of any nation, who speak any language, who have any color skin.

We believe in family. We welcome ALL families, regardless of composition, recognizing that they may be made up of a single individual or many individuals. We welcome ALL persons into our church family where we endeavor to support and encourage each other in this life's journey.

We believe all children should be safe, whether at the border or in Sunday School. We have intentionally implemented safe sanctuary policies to ensure the safety of children at Morristown UMC. All children are welcomed, cherished, and protected here.

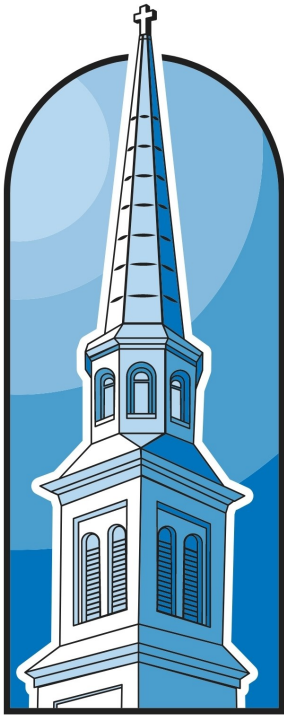
We believe in the diversity of God's creation, and we celebrate self-expression. So we welcome those who dress casually or formally, rugged or fancy, have not a hair out of place or not a hair on their head, are inked, pierced, or neither.

We believe in the power of God's love and we believe...in you.

Welcome! Welcome! We hope you will make your home with us.

**This is NOT a typo*

This welcome statement was adopted by the Church Council on December 3, 2019.



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