



MEADOWCROFT

Presbyterian Church



Luke 3:1-14

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Worship Bulletin – January 21, 2024

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Order of Worship

Prelude: “Be Thou My Vision”

Welcome

Call to Worship* - (responsive) – *Psalm 127*

Leader: Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

Congregation: It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for He gives to His beloved sleep.

Leader: Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.

Congregation: Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Song: “The Church’s One Foundation” *

Prayer of Invocation*

Song: “Living Hope” *

Song: “The Day of the Lord” *

Confession of Sin (responsive) - *Taken from Psalm 51*

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Congregation: Wash away all my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Leader: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Congregation: Against you, and you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight.

Leader: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Congregation: Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquity.

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Congregation: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and give me a willing spirit to sustain me.

Silent Confession - Please continue with silent private prayers of confession

Assurance of God's Forgiveness – Romans 5:9

Confession of Faith (Responsive)

Westminster Shorter Catechism (Questions 86 & 87)

Question 86: What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer: Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, by which we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Question 87: What is repentance unto life?

Answer: Repentance unto life is a saving grace, by which a sinner, having truly realized his sin, and grasped the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

Song: “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” *

Baptisms (Lydia Evelyn Jansen; Leo David Madera;
Miles Jaxon Madera)

Pastoral Prayer

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

*Children ages 3 – 5 years old may go to Children's Church at this time.
3-year-olds will go to room 203 and 4&5-year-olds will go to room 201.*

Scripture – Luke 3:1-14 (*Pew Bible Page: 858*)

Sermon – “*Prepare the Way of the Lord*”

– Rev. Max Benfer

Song: “O Church, Arise” *

Benediction: Romans 15:13

Silence for Reflection and Preparation: *Please spend the next few moments silently reflecting on this morning's service. When the music resumes, please join us for conversation and refreshments in the main hall.*

* *Please stand if you are able.*

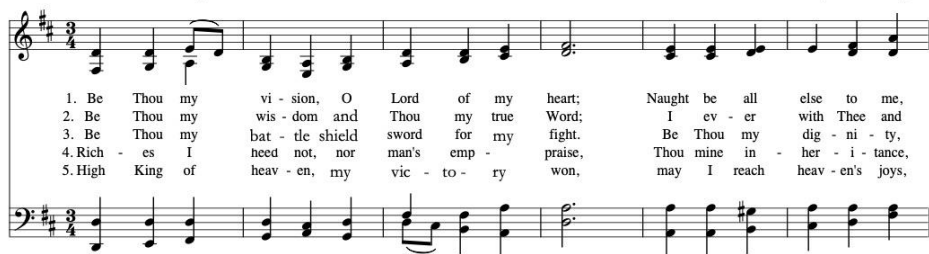
Be Thou My Vision

Words by
Eleanor Henrietta Hull
Translation by
Mary Elizabeth Byrne

Music
Traditional Irish Tune

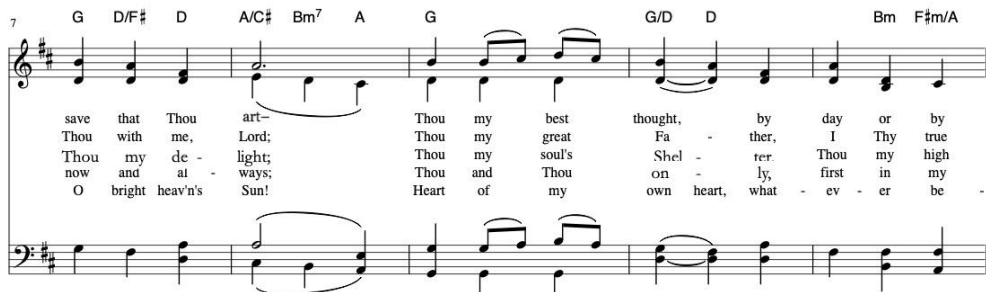
VERSE

D Em7 D/F# G A G D Bm A D A E7/B A/C# D D/F#



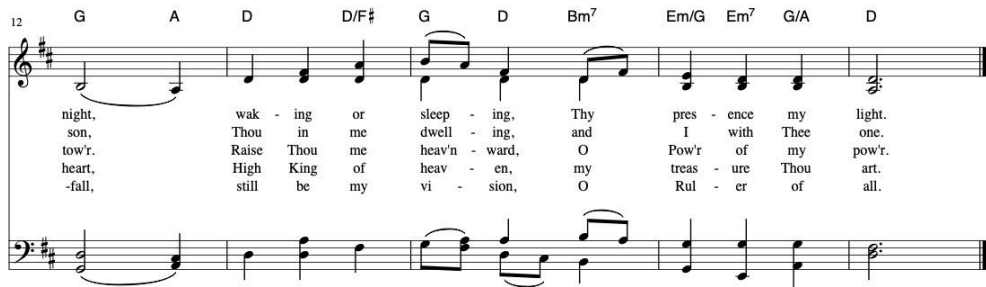
1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me,
2. Be Thou my wis - dom and Thou my true Word; I ev - er with Thee and
3. Be Thou my bat - tle shield sword for my fight. Be Thou my dig - ni - ty,
4. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - praise, Thou mine in - her - i - tance,
5. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won, may I reach heav - en's joys,

7 G D/F# D A/C# Bm7 A G G/D D Bm F#m/A



save that Thou art - Thou my best thought, by day or by
Thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Thou my soul's Fa - ther, I Thy true
Thou my de - light; Thou my soul's Shel - ter. Thou my high
now and al - ways; Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my
O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er

12 G A D D/F# G D Bm7 Em/G Em7 G/A D



night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
son, Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.
tow'r. Raise Thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
heart, High King of heav - en, my treas - ure Thou art.
-fall, still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

The Church's One Foundation

Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. Eph. 2:20

1. The church - 's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3. Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
 4. The church shall nev - er per - ish! Her dear Lord to de - fend,

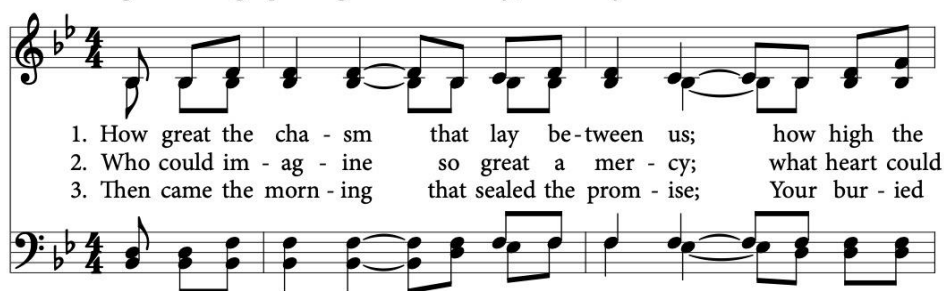
she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word:
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 to guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, is with her to the end;

from heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food;
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
 though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,

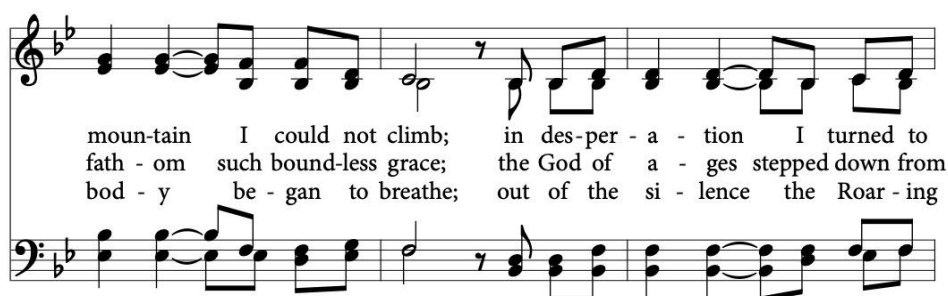
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 a - gainst or foe or trai - tor she ev - er shall pre - vail.

Living Hope

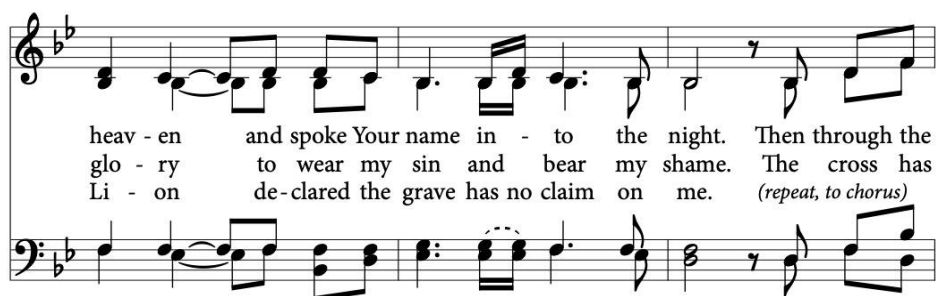
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3



1. How great the cha - sm that lay be - tween us; how high the
2. Who could im - ag - ine so great a mer - cy; what heart could
3. Then came the morn - ing that sealed the prom - ise; Your bur - ied



moun - tain I could not climb; in des - per - a - tion I turned to
fath - om such bound - less grace; the God of a - ges stepped down from
bod - y be - gan to breathe; out of the si - lence the Roar - ing



heav - en and spoke Your name in - to the night. Then through the
glo - ry to wear my sin and bear my shame. The cross has
Li - on de - clared the grave has no claim on me. (repeat, to chorus)



dark - ness, Your lov - ing - kind - ness tore thru the shad - ows of my soul.
spo - ken: I am for - giv - en, the King of Kings calls me His own.

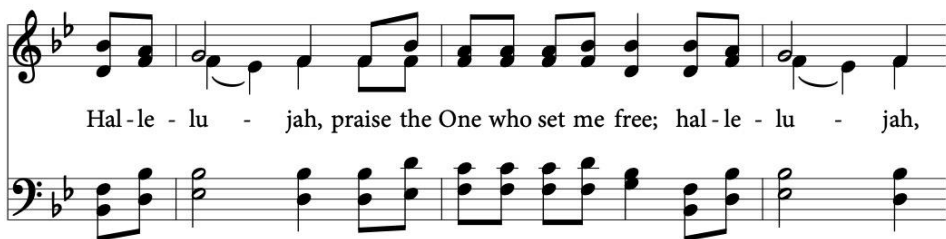
Words and Music: Phil Wickham and Brian Johnson

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The work is fin-ished, the end is writ-ten— Je-sus Christ, my liv-ing hope.
 Beau-ti-ful Sav-ior, I'm Yours for-ev-er— Je-sus Christ, my liv-ing hope.

Chorus



Hal-le-lu-jah, praise the One who set me free; hal-le-lu-jah,

death has lost its grip on me. You have bro-ken eve-ry chain, there's sal-



-va-tion in Your name— Je-sus Christ, my liv-ing hope.

Psalm 37

words and music by
Wendell Kimbrough



WENDELLK.COM

Words & Music: © 2017 Wendell Kimbrough (BMI). CCLI Song #7100081
 Leadsheet by Greg Scheer • greg@gregscheer.com

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

That rock was Christ. 1 Cor. 10:4

♯ A D A D A ♯ Bm⁷ A E⁷ A

1. Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
 2. Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fil thy law's de - mands;
 3. Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
 4. While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

E A E⁷ A E A E⁷ A

let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

D A D A ♯ Bm⁷ A E⁷ A ♯

be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
 foul, I to the Foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Augustus M. Toplady, 1776
 Alt. by Thomas Cotterill, 1815

TOPLADY 7.7.7.7.7.
 Thomas Hastings, 1830

And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 a - gainst or foe or trai - tor she ev - er shall pre - vail.

O Church, Arise

Since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance... Hebrews 12:1

1. O church, a - rise and put your ar - mor on; hear the
 2. Our call to war, to love the cap - tive soul, but to
 3. Come, see the cross where love and mer - cy meet, as the
 4. So Spir - it, come! Put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give

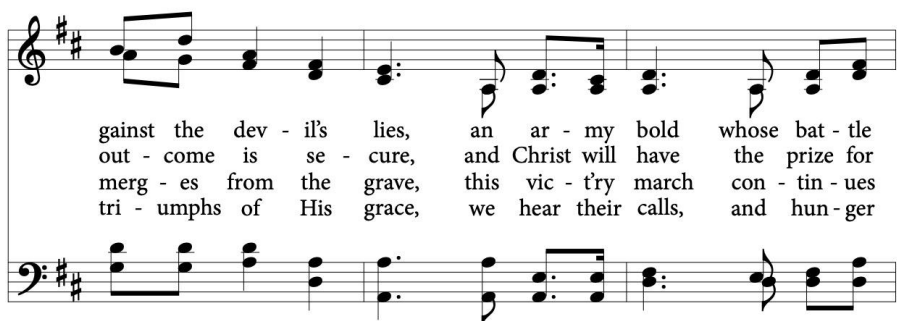
call of Christ our Cap - tain; for now the weak can say that
 rage a - gainst the cap - tor; and with the sword that makes the
 Son of God is strick - en; then see His foes lie crushed be -
 grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle, that we may run with faith to

they are strong in the strength that God has giv - en.
 wound - ed whole, we will fight with faith and val - or.
 neath His feet, for the Con - quer - or has ris - en!
 win the prize of a ser - vant good and faith - ful.

With shield of faith and belt of truth we'll stand a -
 When faced with trials on eve - ry side, we know the
 And as the stone is rolled a - way, and Christ e -
 As saints of old still line the way, re - tell - ing

TEXT and MUSIC: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

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gainst the dev - il's lies, an ar - my bold whose bat - tle
 out - come is se - cure, and Christ will have the prize for
 merg - es from the grave, this vic - t'ry march con - tin - ues
 tri - umphs of His grace, we hear their calls, and hun - ger



cry is "Love!" reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.
 which He died: an in - her - i - tance of na - tions.
 till the day eve - ry eye and heart shall see Him.
 for the day when with Christ we stand in glo - ry!

TODAY!



Meadowcroft Lunch

Sunday, January 21st

- Great time to fellowship - everyone is invited to attend!
- Prepared lunch
- Held after the service in lieu of our regular snack time
- Suggested Donations:
(\$5 for adults; \$3 for children or \$20 per family)

This month's menu:

Sloppy Joe on a roll, Salad, Chips,
Dessert & a Beverage

It is a great time of fellowship!!

We hope you will come!

Sign Up for REMIND

- Receive texts for bad weather postponements and/or cancellations for church services

Text the message @mpcweather to the number 81010.



THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF GOD

Herman Bavinck



Introduction by R. Carlzon Wynne

January 28, 2024

Theology Group

In Person at the Benfers' or on Zoom

- Meet at the Benfers' at 1:00 pm- lunch will be provided
- 2:00 pm start (for those on zoom)
- Led by Max

The group is reading *The Wonderful Works of God* by Herman Bavinck - Chapter 16- "The Divine and Human Nature of Christ"

(Contact Heather John for the Zoom link and other details hvarughese@gmail.com)

You can also contact Max or Michelle with any questions



Mark Your Calendars!

Annual Congregational & Corporation Meetings

Sunday, February 25th after the service
starting at 12:30 pm (snow date: 3/3/24)

Childcare will be provided



Full details coming soon!

MEADOWCROFT Presbyterian Church



2023 Annual Report

SERMON NOTES

A Word to Our Guests:

We are glad you are here! We invite you to stop by our visitor table for more information about our church, and would love if you filled out a visitor card (*in seat back in front of you*) and drop it in the offering box in the lobby.

We have a nursery for children up to and including 3 years old in rooms 206 & 208 (*down the first hallway by the main entrance*). Our nursery is staffed by volunteers with security clearances on file. Children are also welcome in the service. There is a nursing mothers' room available immediately to the left of the main entrance.

Gifts to MPC can be placed in the offering box located in the lobby or made securely online at <https://meadowcroftchurch.org/give>.

Restrooms are located down the first hallway by the main entrance.

Meadowcroft Groups & Bible Studies:

Sunday:

-*Theology Group* – Meets once a month – contact Max Benfer (mбенfer@meadowcroftchurch.org)

-*Youth Group* – Meets twice a month (Sept-May) – contact Matt Kim (mattkim7@gmail.com)

Monday:

-*Small Group @ the Rendells'* – 2nd and 4th Monday – contact Jeff Rendell (jeff@meadowcroftchurch.org)

Tuesday:

-*Men's Morning Bible Study* – Panera Bread in West Chester – Contact Max Benfer (mбенfer@meadowcroftchurch.org)

-*Women's Morning Bible Study* – Winter/Spring Session & Fall Session – contact Janet Lombardo (harp2janet@yahoo.com)

-*Small Group at the Lanes'* – 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday – contact Dave Lane (shinnyusa.lane@gmail.com)

Wednesday:

-*Women's Evening (ZOOM) Bible Study* – Winter/Spring Session & Fall Session – contact Janet Lombardo (harp2janet@yahoo.com)

Meadowcroft Presbyterian Church

1255 South Westtown Road West Chester, PA 19382

610-455-0455

www.meadowcroftchurch.org

Senior Pastor: Max Benfer – mбенfer@meadowcroftchurch.org

Admin Assistant: Donna Smith – mpcadminteam@gmail.com