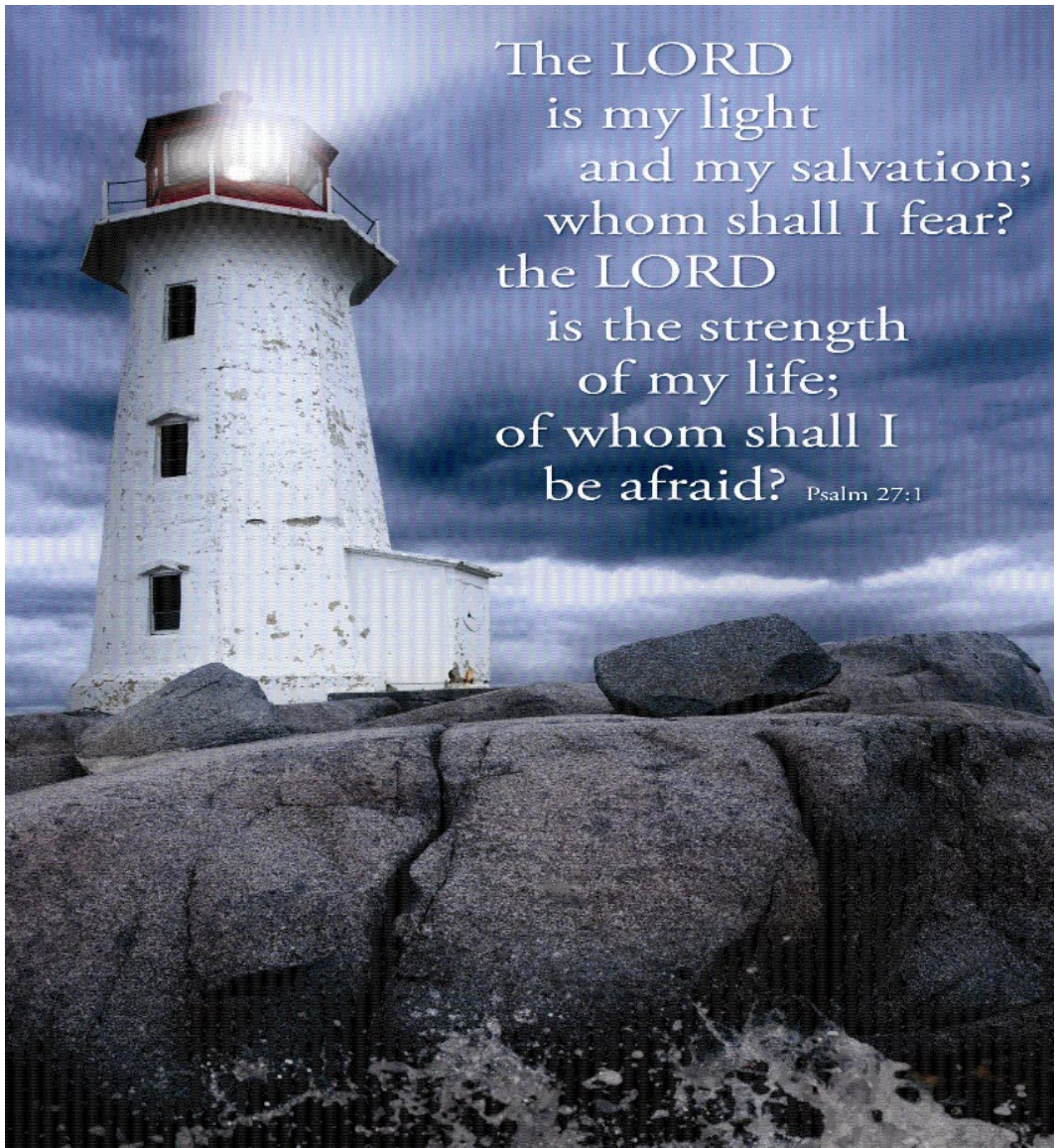


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The LORD
is my light
and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
the LORD
is the strength
of my life;
of whom shall I
be afraid? Psalm 27:1

Lenten Evening Prayer and Song

March 17, 2021

7:00 PM Live Stream

The Reverend Adam C. Bowling - Pastor

Adam.Bowling@fupcdc.org

828.448.8914

As we gather. . . “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” - The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

WELCOME

+ CALL TO WORSHIP *(adapted from Psalm 27)*

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing we ask of the Lord; this we will seek:

to live in the presence of God;

to see the beauty of God;

to seek the truth of God.

+ OPENING HYMN

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

Dana Van Slyke, Soloist

654

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;

in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God; do not be afraid.

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Note: “In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful” is from the Taizé Community in France. The musical style of Taizé emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from Psalms or other pieces of Scripture, repeated many times and sometimes also sung in canon. The repeated nature of these lines are designed so that the song can become a prayer for the participant.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Tori Guest

The proof of God's amazing love is this:

While we were sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,

So that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion,

Let us confess our sin before God and one another, praying together. . .

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Tori Guest

O God, who is rich in mercy,

We come before you humbled and in need of your grace. Many of us have been in the church for so long that we have forgotten how each day your mercies are new, your grace sustains us from minute to minute, hour to hour, day to day, and year to year. We become forgetful, and take your love for granted. We act as though we are your firstborn, deserving of every gift, without doing the hard work of repentance and obedience that characterize life in You. Restore in us a sense of wonder at the depth of your mercies, awe in the grace that you show us each day. And help us to live out of those truths, so that when people look at our lives—they might see love, humility, kindness and gratitude for everything you have given to us.

Hear us now, as we continue to confess in the silence of our hearts. . .

(A time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

551

Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's love is sure and steadfast,
always providing a way out,
a way through,
a way back to God.

Through the waters of baptism,
we have died with Christ and are raised with him.

With gratitude, in faith,
we will walk the way of Christ.

Hearing this Good News,
know that we are forgiven,
and be at peace.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ellie B.

Dear God and Mother of all people,
who is always persistent and ever-giving,
do not give up on us.

Speak your truth, shine your light and show us your way
until our stubborn ignorance gives way to faithful obedience
through your Child our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE AND SONG

The Lord is My Light (Psalm 27)

842

**The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:
in God I trust; in God I trust.**

**The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:
in God I trust; in God I trust.**

Refrain

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear?
the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?

**2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh,
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.**

3 Though an army should encamp against me,
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
**and though war should rise up against me,
yet will I put my trust in the Lord.**

4 One thing have I asked of the Lord;
one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
**to behold the fair beauty of the Lord,
to seek God in the temple. *Refrain***

5 For on the day of trouble the Lord shall shelter me in safety;
the Lord shall hide me in the secrecy of the holy place
and set me high upon a rock.

**6 Even now the Lord lifts up my head
above my enemies round about me.**

Therefore I will offer in the holy place an oblation
with sounds of great gladness;

I will sing and make music to the Lord. *Refrain*

7 Harken to my voice, O Lord, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.
**8 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face."
Your face, Lord, will I seek.**
9 Hide not your face from me,
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
**You have been my helper;
cast me not away;
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.**
10 Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the Lord will sustain me. *Refrain*

11 Show me your ways, O Lord;
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
**12 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.**
13 What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!
**14 O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;
be strong, and the Lord shall comfort your heart;
wait patiently for the Lord.**

Refrain

Silent Meditation

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Hebrews 5:5-10 NRSV

Parker B.

⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you";

⁶as he says also in another place,

"You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek."

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Be Thou My Vision
Jim Van Slyke, Soloist

Arr. Isaac Lowder

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I thy true child,
Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only art first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, your victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall;
still be my vision, still be my vision,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe God is love—
Unconditional, constant love.

We believe this love exists for all,
Choosing each and every one of us,
Day after day,
Again and again and again.

We believe that God's love is like a river.
Rivers cannot help but flow toward the sea;
God's love cannot help but move toward us.
We are swimming in it.

We believe that God loved first.
We believe that God breathed life into dust.
We believe that God said, "This is good,"
And because we believe that God loved first,
We strive to build lives that reflect God's love.
May we begin again here. Amen.

+ SENDING HYMN

Nothing Can Trouble
Chris Anderson, Soloist

820

**Nothing can trouble;
nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God
shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble;
nothing can frighten.
God alone fills us.**

Note: "Nothing Can Trouble" is from the Taizé Community in France. The musical style of Taizé emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from Psalms or other pieces of Scripture, repeated many times and sometimes also sung in canon. The repeated nature of these lines are designed so that the song can become a prayer of the participant.

+ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Adapted from a Charge and Benediction by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God's grace.
And may this be your rhythm—
Again and again and again,
Until God's promised day.
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.
Amen.

+ POSTLUDE

Be Thou My Vision
Justin Streletz, Pianist

Slane, Arr. Bethany K. Smith

+ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*