



No matter your age, race, economic status, religious background, gender or sexual orientation, you are welcome here.

Welcome & Announcements

Dr. Don Ashburn

Prelude

*Church Bell

(*The congregation is invited to stand)

*Call to Worship

Liturgist: God of joy and life and promise,

People: We come to you this day to celebrate the renewal of life in this Easter season.

Liturgist: May joy fill our days,

People: And may the resurrection of Christ inspire us for works of love and peace.

Liturgist: May we be renewed in our worship and sing songs of praise and thanksgiving.

All: As we worship the God of new life and fresh possibility!

*Hymn (see BACK page)

O Worship the King, all glorious above

Lyons

*Prayer of Confession

Dr. Steve Schibsted

Awesome and challenging God, hold us close in this moment, so that with your support we might look deep within and let your healing light purify us. For, only in your grasp can we face our struggles - our frantic pursuit of busyness; the ease with which we tolerate the troubles and inequities of our divided society; the acceptance of bottom-line thinking as the final word; the fear of differences that keeps us from receiving the gifts of others. Holy and disturbing God, keep us close to the cross and let us experience your transforming love that turned a sorrowful Friday into an Easter hope. Renew our hearts, refashion our lives and revive our spirits. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Choral Response and Words of Assurance

*Lord, thou hast searched me and dost know where'er I rest, where'er I go;
thou knowest all that I have planned, and all my ways are in thy hand. Amen.*

—American folk tune from *The Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

Words of Christian Greeting

Offertory

Be thou my vision
Kate Benson, clarinet
Chancel Choir
Stephen Main, piano

arr. Kyle Pederson
(born 1971)

Give us your vision, Lord, this is our prayer. Oh help us to see when the way is not clear. Gift us with wisdom and lead us we pray; let grace be our calling, our strength for today.

Send us in power so we may be all you intended, your hands and your feet. A gift freely given, the hope for rebirth; the kingdom of heaven, at work on the earth.

All of creation with one voice declare, "Hope, love and mercy dispels our despair. As we bear your image to all humankind, waking and sleeping, your presence our light."

—Handt Hanson and Kyle Pederson

To donate using your phone and Venmo, see back page.

Doxology

(Hymnal, p. 572)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 14:7-14

When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Sermon

STORIES JESUS TOLD

Rev. Dr. Steve Schibsted

Everyone is Invited to the Party

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Dr. Schibsted and Dr. Ashburn

*The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Words of Institution and the 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 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 for ever. Amen.

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

We observe the sacrament of Communion by intinction. As directed by an usher, please stand (as you're able) and go to the center aisle. Servers will be standing at 4 stations — 2 at the front of the sanctuary and 2 at the back. They'll be holding plates filled with small pieces of bread and chalices — 1 with wine, 1 with grape juice. Take a piece of bread from a plate. Dip it into the cup. Then eat the bread and return to your pew by a side aisle. If you prefer to take grape juice instead of wine, tell a server. Please do not drink directly from the cup. Those who wish to remain seated will be served in their seats. Please indicate to an usher your interest in being served in a pew.

The 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*Hymn (See NEXT Page)

I come with joy to meet my Lord

Land of rest

*Commission and Benediction

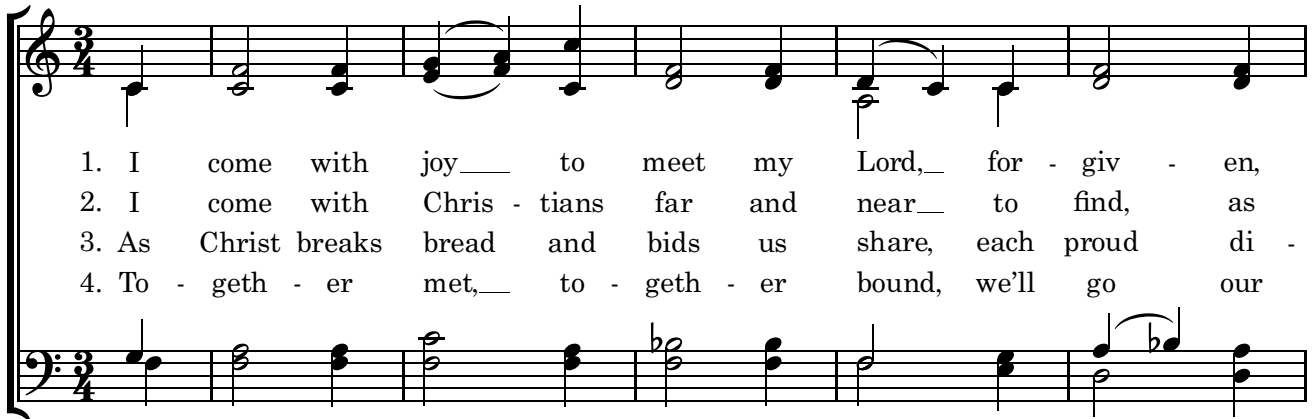
Dr. Schibsted

Voluntary

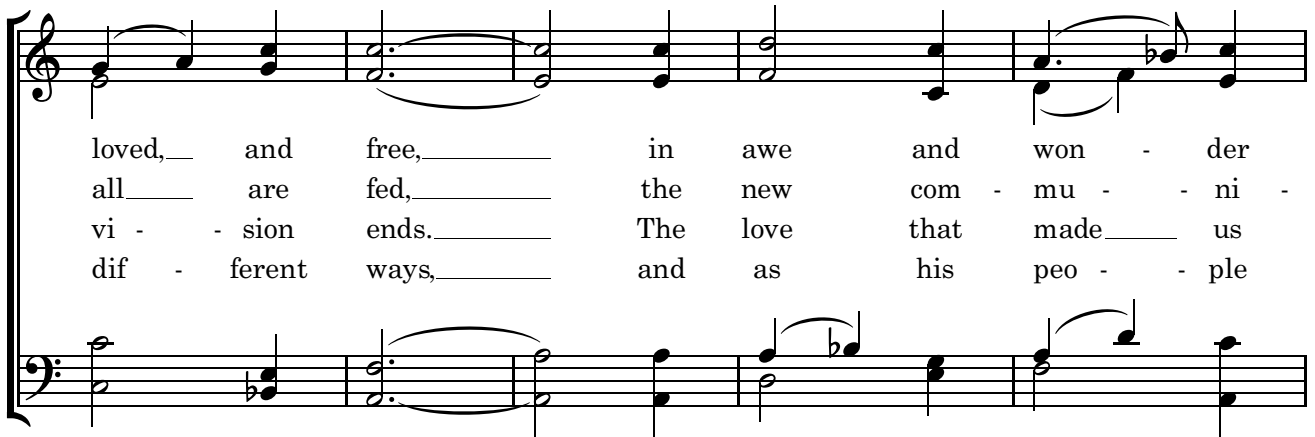
Improvisation

I come with joy to meet my Lord

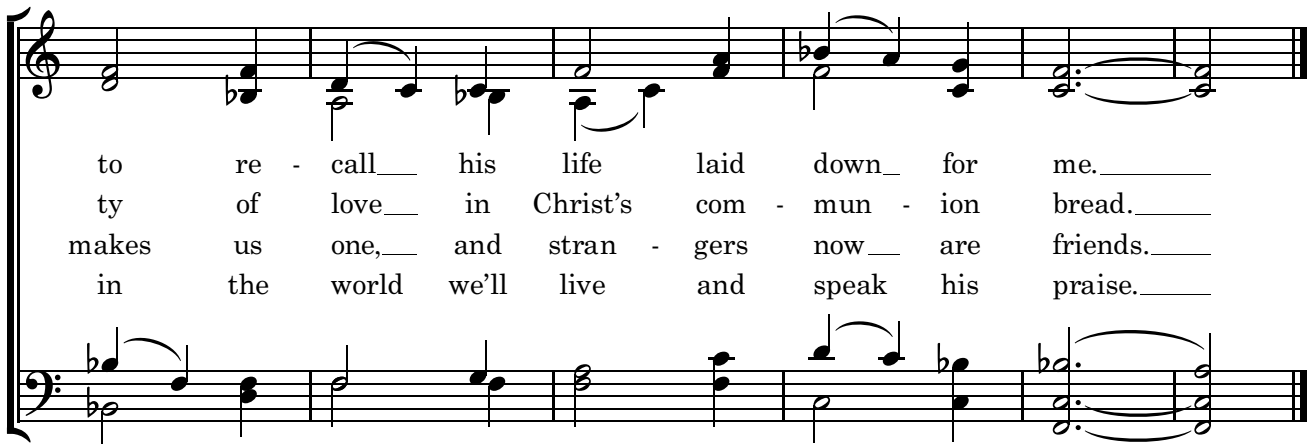
Land of rest



1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, for - giv - en,
2. I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di -
4. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll go our



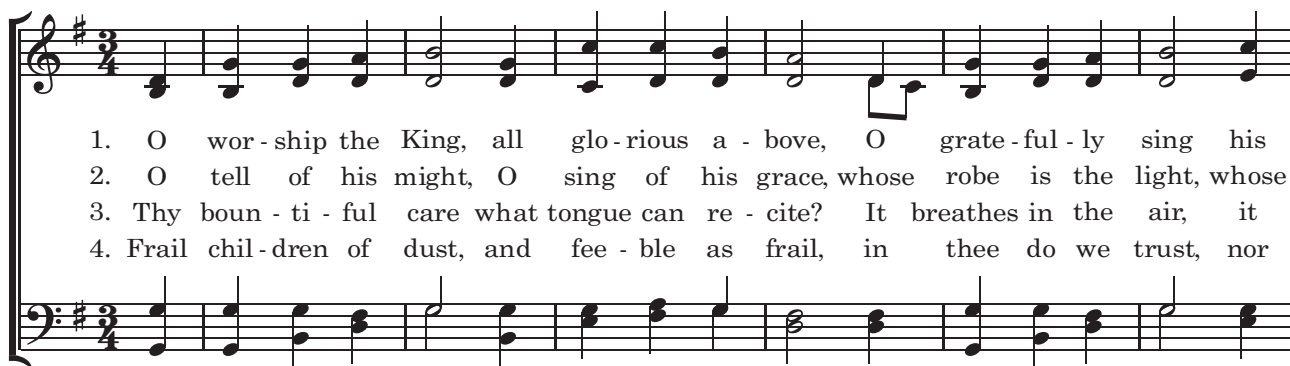
loved, and free, in awe and won - der
all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
vi - sion ends. The love that made us
dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple



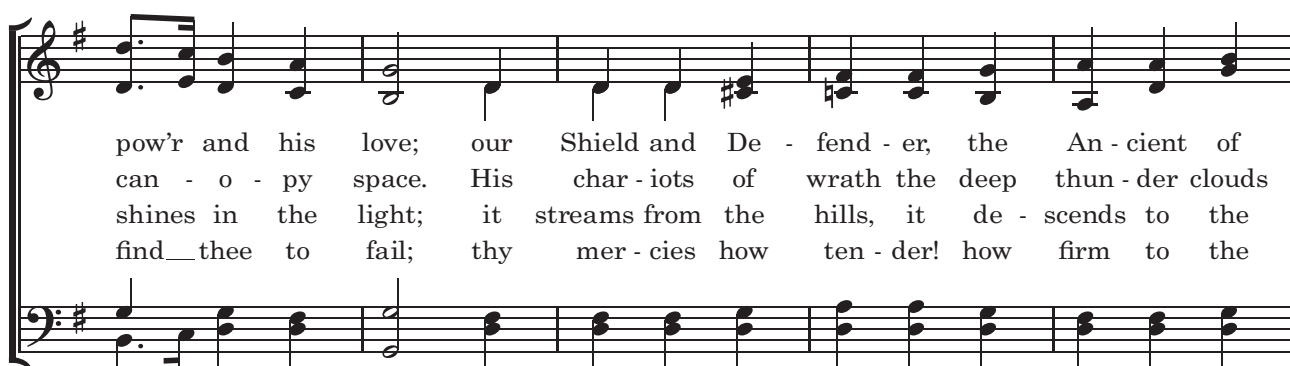
to re - call his life laid down for me.
ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
in the world we'll live and speak his praise.

O Worship the King

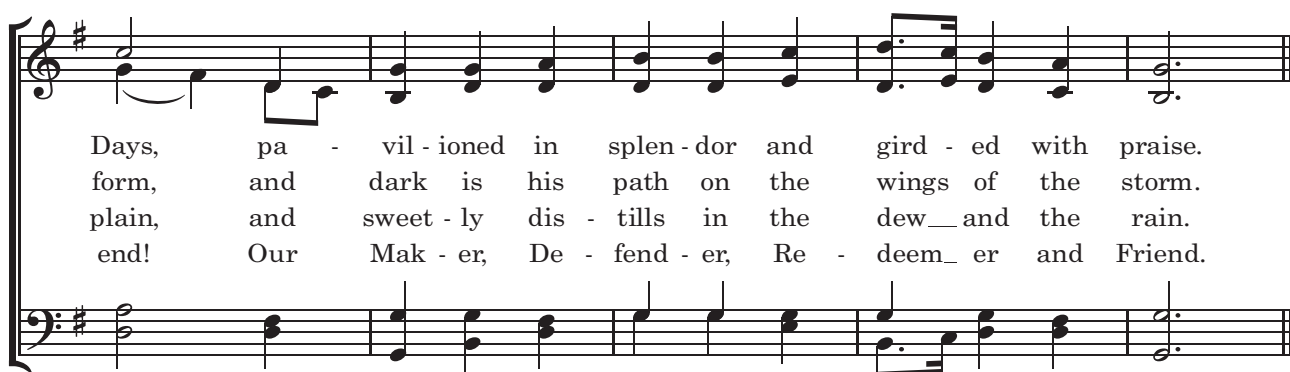
Lyons



1. O wor-ship the King, all glo-rious a - bove, O grate-ful-ly sing his
2. O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose robe is the light, whose
3. Thy boun-ti-ful care what tongue can re-cite? It breathes in the air, it
4. Frail chil-dren of dust, and fee-ble as frail, in thee do we trust, nor



pow'r and his love; our Shield and De-fend-er, the An-cient of
can-o-py space. His char-iots of wrath the deep thun-der clouds
shines in the light; it streams from the hills, it de-scends to the
find thee to fail; thy mer-cies how ten-der! how firm to the



Days, pa-vil-ioned in splen-dor and gird-ed with praise.
form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
plain, and sweet-ly dis-tills in the dew and the rain.
end! Our Mak-er, De-fend-er, Re-deem-er and Friend.

Words: based on Psalm 104, William Kethe, 1561

Music: William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

'THE MESSENGER'

SUBSCRIBE AT PIEDMONTCHURCH.ORG



venmo

For your convenience, we now accept Venmo.
To donate, open your Venmo app, click SCAN
and scan the QR Code.

