



# Brightest & Best

February 23, 2025

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

Pastor Michael Anderson

**Silent meditation**

Isaiah 43:19

Behold, I am doing a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

The response of the crowd implies that they are unwilling to take Jesus' impressive teaching as evidence of his momentous significance. They are unable to get past his humble and familiar origins among them. —Larry Hurtado

The kind of kingdom Jesus was talking about was not the sort of kingdom his contemporaries wanted to hear about. The good folk of Nazareth didn't need to believe such a dangerous message; they could dismiss it as "Oh, he's just the local handyman." Actually, like Mary mistaking Jesus for the gardener in John 20, there may be a hidden irony here: Jesus is indeed the one who can fix things, the one who is putting up a building, the one people should go to to get things sorted out. —NT Wright

G O D C A L L S U S T O W O R S H I P

**Call to Worship**

Psalms 95:6-7a

Elder Bryan Burke

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

**\* *God Himself Is With Us***

Trinity Hymnal 382

**\* Invocation**

## ***The Best of All Rooms***

choir

text, Robert Herrick  
music, Douglas E. Wagner

Christ, he requires still, where'er he comes  
to feed or lodge, to have the best of rooms.  
Give him the choice; grant him the nobler part  
of all the house: the best of all's the heart.

## GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

### **Call to confession**

Hebrews 3:12-15

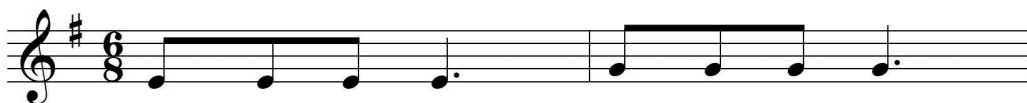
Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. As it is said,

“Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

**Prayer of confession** followed by a time of silent confession

### ***Come, Holy Ghost***

Bruce Benedict & Ray Mills



1. Come, Ho - ly Ghost,	Cre - a - tor blest,
2. O Com - for - ter,	to thee we cry,
3. O Ho - ly Ghost,	through thee a - lone,
4. Praise we the Lord,	Fa - ther and Son,



and in our hearts take up — thy rest;	come with thy grace
thou heav'n - ly gift — of God most high;	thou fount of life,
know we the Fa - ther and the Son;	be this our firm
and Ho - ly Spir - it with them one;	and may the Son

*\* Please rise in body and/or in spirit.*



and heav'n - ly aid to fill our hearts which thou hast made,  
and fire of love, and sweet a - noin - ting from a - bove,  
un - chang - ing creed, that thou dost from \_\_\_ them both pro - ceed,  
on us be - stow all gifts that from \_\_\_ the Spir - it flow,



to fill our hearts \_\_\_ which thou \_\_\_ has made. *to Vs 2*  
and sweet a - noint - ing from \_\_\_ a - bove. *to Chorus*  
that thou dost from \_\_\_ them both \_\_\_ pro - ceed. *to Vs 4*  
all gifts that from \_\_\_ the Spir - it flow. *to Chorus*



*Harmony (optional) >* Ah \_\_\_ where you go there I am



*Melody >* Be not a - fraid, \_\_\_ where you go there I am



with you. \_\_\_ Ah \_\_\_ where you go there I am with you. \_\_\_



with you. Be not a - fraid, \_\_\_ where you go there I am with you. \_\_\_

## Declaration of Forgiveness

John 1:9-13

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

8:30 service      *On the final verse of the song below, 4- to 6-year-olds are dismissed to the foyer for Christ Kids Worship and will return following the sermon.*

11:15 service      *Church bags for 4- to 6-year-olds are available in the foyer.*

## \* *Man of Sorrows! What a Name!*

Trinity Hymnal 246

## GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US

### \* Scripture reading

Mark 6:1–6

<sup>1</sup> He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.

<sup>2</sup> And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands?" <sup>3</sup> Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." <sup>5</sup> And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. <sup>6</sup> And he marveled because of their unbelief.

Elder: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### \* Prayer

**Sermon**      Hard or Soft?  
Offended.

Pastor Andrew VanderMaas

Hardened?

Pursued!

Further discussion/questions? [andrewvandermaas@christchurchgr.org](mailto:andrewvandermaas@christchurchgr.org)  
Sermons are available online at [www.christchurchgr.org](http://www.christchurchgr.org)

# DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD

## \* *Make a Way*

congregation

Porter's Gate



1. Come, Son of God, and make us new.
2. Come, pro - mised since our E - den's end.
3. Come, Son of Man, to show the way.



Light of the world, our hearts re - new. Hope in our in - ner  
Child of the wo - man, come de - fend. Long have we felt the  
O, through the tears may we see the day! So long did we in



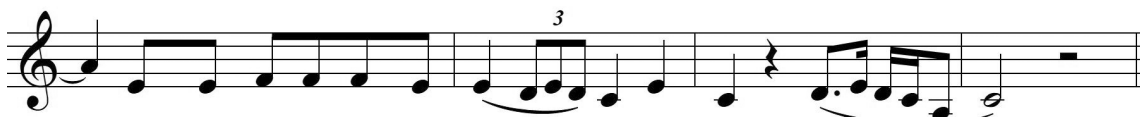
dark - ness lies; O, heal - ing sun of jus - tice rise. \_\_\_\_\_ to Vs 2  
ser - pent's sting. Come, strike his head and mer - cy bring. \_\_\_\_\_ to Chorus  
dark - ness dwell; come down to break the chains of hell. \_\_\_\_\_ to Chorus



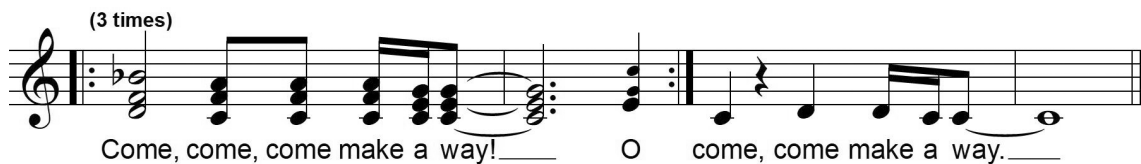
O make a way! \_\_\_\_\_ O - pen wide the gates. \_\_\_\_\_ O make a way



\_\_\_\_\_ through the sor - row and the pain! \_\_\_\_\_ O make a way



though the road is dark and wind - ing, O come, come! \_\_\_\_\_ to Vs 3



**Living out our faith** announcements about the life of the church

## Prayers of the People

Deacon Rob LaPlaca (8:30 AM)  
Deacon Jake Nienhuis (11:15 AM)

*During the offertory please pass the red friendship pads found at the end of the rows.*

*Give online at [christchurchgr.org](http://christchurchgr.org) or by texting (616) 208-2820*

## Offertory *Wood and Nails*

by Keith Watts, Isaac Wardell, and Madison Cunningham

O humble carpenter, down on your hands and knees,  
look on your handiwork and build a house  
so you may dwell in Me,  
so you may dwell in Me.

The work was done with nothing but  
wood and nails in Your scar-borne hands  
O show me how to work and praise  
trusting that I am Your instrument.

O loving laborer with the sweat upon your face,  
oh, build a table that I may too may join you  
in the Father's place  
oh, in the Father's place!

The kingdom's come and built upon  
wood and nails gripped with joyfulness,  
So send me out, within Your ways  
knowing that the task is finished.

The dead will rise and give You praise -  
wood and nails will not hold them down!  
These wooden tombs, we'll break them soon  
and fashion them into flower beds,  
The curse is done, the battle won  
swords bent down into plowshares,  
Your scar-borne hands, we'll join with them,  
serving at the table You've prepared.



**\* Doxology**

Trinity Hymnal 731

**\* Benediction**

*Kids and All: You are invited to come forward and wave the colorful flags as we sing our closing Amen song.*

**\* Let the Church Say Amen**

Let the Church say "A - men." Let the Church say "A - men." —

God has spok-en, let the Church say "A - men."

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The key signature has four flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat, D-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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**\* Postlude**

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**Worship musicians**

Adult Choir

Sarah Helder, director

Linda Bokma-deJong, song leader (8:30)

Betsy Bray, song leader (11:15)

Leah Quinn, song leader (11:15)

Wesley Klammer, trumpet

Judah Guerra, trombone & bass

Susan Guerra, piano