

Straight from the "Hart"

Worship Service from August 22, 2021



Music Morning Has Broken

Music Help Us Accept Each Other

Theme

Today Aesop reminds us of the kind of friends we are supposed to be -- of course, like many of the ancient tales, they teach through negative example...

Two travelers were on the road together, when a bear suddenly appeared on the scene. Before he observed them, one made for a tree at the side of the road and climbed up into the branches and hid there. The other was not so nimble as his companion and he could not escape. He threw himself on the ground and pretended to be dead. The bear came up and sniffed all about him, but he kept perfectly still and held his breath, for they say that a bear will not touch a dead body. The bear took him for a corpse and went away. When the coast was clear, the traveler in the tree came down and asked the other what it was the bear had whispered to him when he put his mouth to his ear. The other replied, "He told me never again to travel with a friend who deserts you as the first sign of trouble."

(The Bear and the Traveler by Aesop)

Then we have an African folktale that tells us that friendships could blossom if we can only unlearn what we think we know, or move past what we do know about others.

Once upon a time, the child of the Frog was hopping along in the bush when he spied someone new lying across the path before him. This someone was long and slender, and his skin seemed to shine with all the colors of the rainbow. "Hello there," called Frog-child. "What are you doing here lying in the path?"

"Just warming myself in the sun," answered the someone new, twisting and turning and uncoiling himself. "My name is Snake-child. What's yours?"

"I'm Frog-child. Would you like to play with me?" So, Frog-child and Snake-child played together all morning long in the bush.

"Watch what I can do," said Frog-child, and he hopped high into the air. "I'll teach you how, if you want," he offered. So he taught Snake-child how to hop, and together they hopped up and down the path through the bush.

“Now watch what I can do, said Snake-child, and he crawled on his belly straight up the trunk of a tall tree. “I’ll teach you if you want.” And so he taught Frog-child how to slide on his belly and climb into trees. After a while, they both got hungry and decided to go home.

“Look what I can do, Mother!” cried Frog-child, crawling on his belly. “Where did you learn how to do that?” his mother asked. He answered, “Snake-child taught me, we played together in the bush this morning. He’s my new friend.”

“Don’t you know the Snake family is a bad family?” his mother asked. “They have poison in their teeth. Don’t ever let me catch you playing with one of them again. And don’t let me see you crawling on your belly either. It isn’t proper.”

Meanwhile, Snake-child went home and hopped up and down for his mother to see. “Who taught you to do that? she asked.

“Frog-child did,” he said. “He’s my new friend.”

“What foolishness,” said his mother. “Don’t you know we’ve been on bad terms with the Frog family for longer than anyone can remember? The next time you play with Frog-child, catch him and eat him up. And stop that hopping. It isn’t our custom.”

So the next morning when Frog-child met Snake-child in the bush, he kept his distance. “I’m afraid I can’t go crawling with you today,” he called, hopping back a hop or two.

Snake-child eyes him quietly, remembering what his mother had told him. “If he gets too close, I’ll spring at him and eat him,” he thought. But then he remembered how much fun they had had together, and how nice Frog-child had been to teach him how to hop. He sighed sadly to himself and slid away into the bush.

And from that day onward, Frog-child and Snake-child never played together again. But they often sat alone in the sun, each thinking about their one day of friendship.

(Why the Frog and Snake Never Play Together)

Aesop’s “**What isn’t**”. the folktale’s “**What could have been**”, and now doctor, surgeon and poet Spenser Free brings it home with the power of true friendship, the unity of heart mind, soul, and strength, which he describes through the power of touch...

‘Tis the human touch
in this world that counts,
The touch of your hand and mine,
which means far more

to the fainting heart
than shelter and bread and wine;
For shelter is gone
when the night is o'er,
and bread lasts only a day,
but the touch of the hand
and the sound of the voice
sing on in the soul always.

(The Human Touch by Spencer Michael Free)

Paul tells us to consider who we are and how God has gifted us and how we can unite and coordinate our varied gifts to carry on the work of sharing Christ's love in the world.

Responsive Reading (Lay Reader - LR **Pastor with Congregation - P/C**)

LR: You must see yourself just as you are. Decide what you are by the faith God has given each of us.

P/C: Each one of us has one body, and that body has many parts. These parts don't all do the same thing.

LR: In the same way, we are many people, but in Christ we are all one body. We are the parts of that body, and each part belongs to all the others.

P/C: We all have different gifts.

LR: Each gift came because of the grace God gave us. Whoever has the gift of prophecy should use that gift in a way that fits the kind of faith they have. Whoever has the gift of serving should serve. Whoever has the gift of teaching should teach. Whoever has the gift of comforting others should do that. Whoever has the gift of giving to help others should give generously. Whoever has the gift of leading should work hard at it. Whoever has the gift of showing kindness to others should do it gladly.

P/C: Your love must be real. Hate what is evil. Do only what is good.

(Romans 12:3c-9 (ERV))

Music Together We Serve

Special Music Summer Singers

Intro to Music Let me give you some background about the song's author, Charles F Weigele. He was born in LaFayette, Indiana when Purdue University was in its 2nd year of existence to a God-fearing German baker and his devote wife. He grew up in this family of 12 in which he heard Dad pray, read the Bible and conduct a

daily family worship after breakfast. He was an avid reader, especially books connected with travel and people, and the revolutionary war, as well as some of the classic novels... At the age of 12 many of his peers became Christian during revival meetings at their little local Methodist church. He resisted longer than others. He had a terrible, violent problem with anger. His parents warned him that he'd end up in jail, but he paid little attention.

Then one day in the rear seat of a small church during a revival meeting, he envisioned (and when they tell you the story, they don't clue you in that this is a vision, it sounds like it is really happening). He envisioned that he was arrested, and in court, and the judge asked if he had an attorney, and he replied he had no one. The judge motioned to a handsome young lawyer to act for him. He began to have some hope as the lawyer came near and spoke to him with tender sympathy. "Tell the truth and leave the rest with me. Trust me, and I'll help you."

But then witness after witness came forward and the accusations of every violent outburst was put before him. He confessed his guilt and knew there were more beside... The prosecutor summed up his argument saying he was a potential murderer and menace to the community and should be placed in prison for a long time. He felt there was no hope, but then a glimmer of hope returned when his newly appointed attorney rose to face the judge and said, "Father."

His attorney went on to say the defendant pleads guilty to every charge, he asks for mercy, and as his attorney, I plead for him. I believe that if the court will grant my plea, this young man will live a new and better life." As he spoke, the judge rose -- the judge said, "But my son, if the defendant is guilty, there is a fine, a penalty that must be paid according to the law."

The lawyer replied, "I'll take care of that and suffer the penalty." and the judge ruled -- "In response to the plea made by the attorney for the defendant, he will be pardoned and set at liberty, with the understanding that he show by his manner of life a due respect for the law and a kindness toward his neighbors."

He was free... and the attorney clasped his hand and said, "We will be friends forever -- whenever you need help, call to me and I'll help you." And since that day he has never forgotten me and we've been as close as brothers through the years."

This was an extremely shortened version of his description of his salvation story -- that God was the judge and Jesus was his defense, and he gave up his anger.

Due to family financial hardships, they moved to Newport, KY and at 17 began to work as a tool maker. But wherever he went, unrest within him followed. He was

trained in music in Cincinnati, hoping to become a baritone singer, but eventually he could not become a preacher and evangelist, and he became well-known and popular. Unfortunately, it was not the life his in-laws, wife and daughter wanted -- they wanted to follow other lights; and so they left him -- and it was during these dark stressful days that he wrote the song that demonstrated his ongoing and irresistible passion for the lives of people who did not yet know Jesus... the song we are going to sing for you now...

(Taken from https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/downloads/Life_and_Songs_of_Charles_Weigle.pdf)

Music Living for Jesus

Pastor's Prayer Lord, some of us too have come from weeks that contained trials, conflicts, and burdens. Whether we have or not, it is always good to turn to you in worship and prayer and discover more of your pleasure and peace in our life. We set our compasses on your will so that we are not caught up in advice and paths that would lead us away from you. We want to be grounded in you, that by you we may live an abundant, productive life.

The challenging winds of life may seek to blow us away, so we rely on you and your might. For you are our help. You sustain us through the storms. You listen to us, and that is why we continue to pray for **[Intercession]** * F/F Mike Sharlow's mom Helen who passed away, * F/F of pastor's friends Ernie and Catherine Rice whose daughter Carrie passed away * Pastor's friend Fred Gaff requests prayers as he faces trip to Mayo for shoulder evaluation and then surgery - minor to full replacement... And today, an update on Gar and Vivian's son Denny – who has had a miraculous recovery, transferred back to the hospital in Flint for rehabilitation, and still has a lot of healing and recovery to go. * We also pray for the health of Jan Martin's son, Brian Martin and family, * and for Judy Holmes' relative struggling with alcoholism. We also pray for others that we've named in the past but still need our intercession; and those that are impressed upon our hearts and minds but have not been named out loud. We also pray for **[Quilts]** Maddie -- 3 year old with brain cancer, and Bre Johnson, who we've been praying for, the recipient of a kidney transplant - for these two we ask for healing and for whom we now dedicate these two quilts...

Lord, we lift before you today Maddie and Bre. We ask that you shower them with blessings and fill them with your Spirit. We ask that through these quilts, Maddie and Bre are renewed in spirit, that one day at a time, they will continue in faith, in love and assurance for their future.

And even if it is beyond their conscious comprehension, let them feel your comfort as they wrap their quilts around them, instilling them with confidence because they sense your presence in these challenging days.

Strengthen them on those weak days, Assure them when hope falters, encourage them when understanding seems elusive. In all things, let him feel your care through this church and their family and friends. Let them calmly and confidently look forward in anticipation to all that you have planned for their lives. Let each new day bring an abundance of new possibilities. We pray this blessing in the name of the One who for our sake, endured and lives forever.

Now as we offer our hearts up to you, speak to all of us your comfort, your strength, your guidance, your passion for us...We praise your good name, for you will deliver us through all our troubles, and give us victory over everything that would hold us back, so that we may better live as you taught us to pray **Lord's Prayer**

Introduction and Bible Reading Matthew 9:35-38, Luke 14:16-18a, 21b-23

Intro Our first reading states we have varied gifts from God, and when used, we fulfill the ongoing work of Christ. We cannot do this alone, we have to come together to make it happen, and that means we need to invite others to unite with us on our faith journey, just as Jesus told us -- not only among his own disciples, but to reach out beyond his own and make those others a part of us too.

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

.... Jesus [also said]: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' "But they all alike began to make excuses.... Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' "“Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited [but turned down the invitation] will get a taste of my banquet.'"" (NIV)

The writer of the special music is attributed with a special ability to stir the hearts of many Christians and draw many people to Christ as well. Assembling the Christians, inviting others to the banquet -- through the wonderful story of Christ...

Music I Love to Tell the Story

Sermon Draw Inward

Many years ago, my oldest son, Mitchell, was at that age that he wanted to everything that Dad did. And so when it came to mowing the lawn, one of those simple tasks that became an adventure. It is hard to imagine now, him being 6' 5" and all, but at that time, he would get up on his tippy toes and reach as high as he could to reach that cross bar of our little push mower, and I would get around him and get a hold of the top of that bar and he would take as big a stride as he could, and I would take as small of a step as I could manage, and moved up and down the hills of that yard, and (Sigh) Sometimes, there is no doubt that it is easier to do it yourself, right?

What was previously a relatively painless task became a much more time consuming chore for which I gained blisters, aching legs, and a sore back. It would have been a lot easier to just do it myself. But we know that this is an example of the privilege of parenting; of training the next generation responsibilities and skills that will lead to successful independent living. It is also the privilege of inter-generational and or growing faith circles, of people at different levels of faith. Sometimes the process slows us down and causes pain for several reasons:

Growing privileges / pains

For one, the quality of the finished product is diminished, because the people have not yet had a chance to develop the skills of someone more experienced and trained. (I remember looking out on the lawn years later (when they had tried it themselves) and seeing the narrow lines of tall grass in-between each row of mowing. But eventually Mitchell, more often Angela, learned better how to overlap the paths enough and get it *all* down.

⇒ **Diminished Quality**

This is not about settling for mediocrity (as some have accused me of saying in the past). But it is about graciously tolerating the growing levels of others as they move forward to maturity -- learning to serve -- in the case of the church, to serve Christ, to do their best and press towards excellence -- a process that can only come with the experience of learning pains.

A second challenge (or blessing) in this process is that people see different paths. People bring their own ideas to a task and it doesn't always get done the same way we'd expect it to get done. (They go around the yard in a different pattern than we may go around). Or one person looks at a window and sees frilly curtains to make that nice and homey while another person might think blinds are a more appropriate application for that setting. It is not that one is right and one is wrong, it is that we have different preferences.

⇒ **Different paths Quality**

A third challenge is that things don't always get done in a timely fashion - at least by our own personal sense of urgency of when it should get done... If you have ever had the joy of delegating some task to someone 6 weeks ahead of time, only to have it arrive back on your desk after going through 2 or 3 people - one week before it has to be done, it is still not completed and often unstarted, then you know what I am talking about.

⇒ **Tests patience**

People serve God through their jobs, through their families through their extended families and extra-curricular activities and many other organizations, and therefore they don't always get to the task that we think they should get to it -- as quickly as we would like. And that can lead to frustration even though that may doing the best they can do with all they are going through in their life.

I remember in one church I felt it was time to start a web site for that organization, and I was going to bring it to the Council, and it wasn't on the agenda, but I was waiting for a time I thought it would fit in well, and about one item before I had planned to bring it up, a person interjected, "I'll pay for a website if you'll let me do it." Everyone thought that was a great idea. We got the domain name, and the website was started, and we had a domain name for about 5 years. There was no follow through. That's a little bit too much patience, I think. There is a difference between patiently waiting for growth and letting something die on the vine... In that church, they didn't think it was that critical of an issue, so they did just let it die on the vine for that time period of the church life.

In the spiritual journey of God's people, there is always this difficult balancing act between trying to reach out to a culture that, for no or minimal input, expects to be served instantly and perfectly from every person and/or organization every time - no matter who within that organization they make contact. And that is balanced against these organizations, whether it be a fast-food restaurant or a church or a store -- they have ever-changing group dynamics as people come

and go, and have various backgrounds, levels of commitment, and levels of experience and maturity. If you've ever been in any kind of a management level, you know what I am talking about. How do you balance those expectations of everything being just right, perfectly right every time -- and the realities of trying to grow something, and people, from their brand-new starts? It is why some churches only look for mature Christians to join them from other churches that have trained them up. And sometimes those transfers happen, and is better and the situation calls for that... but Paul wrote to Titus that it is expected and normal to have all levels of spiritual maturity from people who aren't yet believers all the way up to the very mature in Christ. He said that is why he sent young Titus to that certain island in Greece -- to turn Cretans into saints. Cretans got that name, which we now use as a nickname about people, for a reason. The people of Crete said it about themselves, that they were terrible people. Disbelievers, morally corrupt, immature faith doubters, faith dabblers, liars, cheaters, all the rest -- that is what they were saying about themselves, not what the church was saying about them. And so Paul sent young Titus there, to take all these people, who were "cretans", and transform them through Christ, over time, into solid, mature followers of Christ with all the ethics that went with it. (See Titus 1:5-12) God's people gather to be a healing center for the spiritually seeking rather than a display center of the completely cured. Christ's church is a school for wanna-becomers, not a performance center for the already-theres.

The Chair of the Federal Reserve doesn't sit on the Finance Committee, Steven Spielberg doesn't design our PowerPoints or microphone system, and Deputy Dave doesn't run the Children's Ministry. (Deputy Dave is a local reference for me).

When I was in Jr - High, early High School, there was a local afterschool TV show that starred someone called Deputy Dave. He was a ventriloquist, and he brought all his puppets to the show. As it turned out he started coming to our church and ran our Children's Ministry, with his ventriloquism and puppets and did a wide variety of things. When he had become a Christian, he Christianized the television show, and it eventually went off the air, but in the meantime, he had become well known all over the city of Lansing. We are pretty sure that he was the first ventriloquist in the country to use a mixed-race -- he was white and one of his dummies was black. He did this because he was trying to reach inner city Lansing, and we bussed in gobs and gobs of kids and the size of the church quadrupled. Sometimes we are blessed with the fortune of having professionals (or people who

have professional level skills) doing their professional thing in our midst; sometimes as volunteers sometimes as paid staff. But for the most part, we are a **family of volunteers**; trying to do our best, together, for God, for home, for church, for community, and it is God who makes the difference in everything we do.

Consider the baseball minor league farm system. Notice they call it a “*farm*” system. It is because they are growing things from little -- they take these really young players who are just starting out, out of high school or sometimes college, and they put them in this farm system where they can grow something from very young and immature into something fully mature... These professional teams take all this time -- sometimes years -- to develop players who may never develop, but they still do it anyway, and they keep hoping that out of that will grow something great that will lead their top tier team to victory. They just keep on planting the seeds, and teaching and training -- the whole farm system is built just for that purpose, to create something wonderful, but they also know that when they do finally bring them out of the farm and into the big park, inevitably, many are still going to make mistakes, because they have to go through the big park growing pains.

This is the privilege, and the struggle; of passing on the faith, so that the next generation (or our generation, or even the generation that came before us) begins to learn the commitment, the skills, and the responsibilities to have and to carry on faith in Christ.

In some places of the world, many decided -- to use my opening metaphor -- that it would just be easier to do it all themselves. And so they did. And they did it faster and more effectively, or they hired it out. And for a long time, they had greener, prettier lawns than all the rest. They traded for the best players. They didn't have all these new ones coming up. They weren't slowed down by trainees under foot, or by people who had different ideas, or by people who tested their patience. But now, for various reasons they are no longer able to mow the lawn, and they have no one around to take up the lawn mower -- to take the torch and keep it going... So yes, there are short-term benefits but there are also long-term consequences to just “doing it ourselves”.

That strategy has never been the plan. Even Moses recognized the need of all the people, as flawed as they were and are, to be God's people for the world. After the golden calf incident, if you don't know that story, it is simply a serious scandal of sinful defiance against God. And after that happened, Moses went out and he prayed, “Please forgive their sin; but if you won't, then remove my name from the

book in which you have written the names of your people.” Talk about intercession. (Exodus 32:32 GNT)

In other words, Moses has no desire to go on to a promised land if it meant leaving people behind. We are in this together. God then tells Moses to lead the people by means of an angel, because, God says, you go ahead and lead them and I’ll send you an angel to guide you along the way, but I’m not going to go because if I try to go with this stubborn rebellious people, I might get so mad I will wipe them out on the way (See Exodus 33:1-3) -- Even that was a form of grace. But Moses was not satisfied with that:

If it is true that you look favorably on me, let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favor. And remember that **this nation** [not me, this nation] **is your very own people.**” The Lord replied, “I will personally go with you, Moses, and I will give you rest—everything will be fine for you.” (33:13-14 (NLT)) (**emphasis added**)

And again, Moses wasn’t satisfied with that, so he again brings it back to the group and he says:

“If you don’t personally go with **us**, don’t make **us** leave this place. How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me **and on your people**—if you don’t go with **us**? For your presence among **us** sets **your people** and me apart from all other people on the earth.” (Exodus 33:15 (NLT)) (**emphasis added**)

Moses takes his personal approval and blessing and reward, and keeps reminding God that they are all his people, and they all need that same blessing and reward to keep them going, for the journey is not meant to be done alone... this leads finally, to God’s self-revelation, while not excusing sins or recognizing their multi-generational consequences, He says this:

The God of compassion and mercy! [God says] I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. (Exodus 34:6b-7a (NLT))

which is why this group journey is with God, and upward toward God as we’ve talked about it earlier weeks, and on the way, we are to reach out to others by our godly example, the way we live (“Living for Jesus”); and by acts of compassion, and by works for justice. But the circle is not complete -- we’ve gone up, we’ve gone out, now we have to complete the circle by coming back in and inviting others to join us on our journey, to come with us.

<p>Upward - to God Outward - by godly example - by acts of mercy - by works of justice Inward - with others</p>

Jesus did it. If anyone could have done it on his own, it was Jesus. Yet he came and lived among us -- not as a powerful political person, or a media mogul, or any other "upper echelon" mover and shaker of their world. He came as a "common" person -- a person whose source of giftedness was not in his looks, his natural skills, but in his connection with God. (And we should probably take a clue from that too). And even with that giftedness, he refused to do it alone, but he surrounded himself with people who were not the brightest and the best of their world -- especially in religious circles -- not leaders of the day. The reason they were fishing people and tax collectors, and political activists, and other things they didn't even bother to name, it was so insignificant, was because they had failed the cut to become a disciple of a rabbi in the first place, which was every Jewish boy's dream. But they willing and they were available, and Jesus took them.

As we read the stories of Jesus with his disciples, we can only imagine how many times he squelched a heavy sigh... and then tried to turn it into yet another "teachable moment." We can only imagine how many times the disciples were anticipating a different direction than Jesus. Once Peter even pulled Jesus aside to said, "You're going the wrong way, Jesus. We want you to go this way. This is what you are supposed to be doing" (See Matthew 16:22). But it didn't stop Jesus -- because as we heard in the bible reading, Jesus saw the people and had compassion on them because there was no one around like Moses to intercede for them and to lead them. He turned to his trainees and he told them to pray for more workers -- not experts, not professionals, just workers. People who would become a part of God's people. And driving this same point home, Jesus later told a story (which we also heard in the Bible reading) about inviting all kinds of people -- not the kind of people most would expect. But Jesus had this "Y'all come" attitude because to God, all are valuable in God's eyes, and all are welcome to come to the banquet.

And then Christ gave the Spirit to the church he established - to gift them continue proclaiming this and doing this inviting work of Christ. In Ephesians, Paul says,

[Christ] handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and

blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love. (From Ephesians 4:11-16 MSG)

We don't grow and move and step together in a way that every individual matches our image of what that looks like. If I had the copyright, I'd show you a picture of the movie, "I Robot". Do you remember that movie? And all the robots lined up in what looked like a great big airport hangar, thousands of them, identical in shape and form and look, and lined up in rows, all programmed exactly alike. That's not how the church works. To go back to my marching band metaphor from last week -- we were all in uniform -- that's uniformity. When we got out on the field we did all kinds of different movements to form something great -- a picture of the "G.L." or something, and with different instruments playing different parts forming one song. That is unity, not uniformity. See the difference? We all do our different things but it all comes together. We are not programmed like the "I, Robots". In fact, Ephesians that I just read, as well as the Responsive Reading from Romans emphasize that we all have *different* strengths and *different* gifts [and different personalities] to offer -- that help us build each other up and together if we use them that way; each in our own unique way, and whatever uniqueness we have, we use to the very best of our ability to be a part of what God has been about throughout history, which is to call people to him, reaching out in love through Christ, and reaching out through his people, building bridges to draw people back to him...

We invite people to join in and share our journey toward maturity in God. Or as our mission statement for Hartland states it: ... our mission is sharing the journey to know, to love, and to serve God.

Prayer Lord, one of the hymnwriters in our hymnal wrote that we are seeds that grow into a new sprouts, we are a stars that shine in the night, we are yeast that leavens, the salt [that flavors, purifies and preserves]. You have chosen us to usher in the dawn of a new day by bringing to people the hope, faith, and love of that comes from you. Grant that our lives will nurture others in the midst of a turbulent world, that our good deeds will show a despairing world the path that leads to you - that our love will be your love - - declaring your forgiving peace and eternal joy. Amen.

Music 572 (vv 1,3) Pass It On

Blessing Now as you blossom into the fullness of God's eternal presence and peace, move "true north" to Jesus, and out to serve others by welcoming them to God's love in which we find full life in his direction.