

Straight from the "Heart"

September 18, 2022



Sharing the journey
to know, love, and serve God.

Welcome to the Hartland UMC worship service script.

Statement of Faith (P - Pastor C - Congregation)

P: We believe in one God: **C: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

P: He is the true and living God,

C: worthy to receive glory and honor and power.

P: He created all things; **C: by his will they existed and were created.**

P: We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ;

C: all things came into being through him.

P: He is the image of the invisible God,

C: the firstborn of all creation.

P: In him all things in heaven and on earth were created.

C: He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

P: Being in the form of God, he emptied himself,

C: he took the form of a slave, and was born in human likeness.

P: Being found in human form, he humbled himself;

C: he became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

P: Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures;

C: he was buried; he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

P: God also highly exalted Jesus:

C: he gave him the name that is above every name.

P: God has put all things under his feet:

C: he made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body.

P: We believe that Jesus died and rose again:

C: through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

P: As all die in Adam, **C: so all will be made alive in Christ.**

P: Thanks be to God **C: who gives us the victory.**

Opening Prayer Holy God, we have gathered from the various walks of our week, from the forces beyond our control that seek to shape us into their image – in order to open ourselves to the redeeming power of your Spirit. We give to you ourselves, and our gifts, that all may know that there is freedom in Christ, and in him the old way ends, and there is a new creation, and a new way of life begins through the Way, the Truth, and the Life; and it is in his name that we pray. Amen.

Ad. from Brian Wren © 2004 Brian Wren [W&S]

Call to Worship

Lay Reader: Come to the Way that gives breath, to the Truth that ends strife, and to the Life that does not die. Come to the Light that reveals his nourishing feast and receive the spiritual Bread that makes us strong. Come, experience Christ's joy, his unbreakable bond of love, and feel his heart rejoice in his love for us.

Ad. from the lyrics of Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life,
by George Herbert in UM Hymnal # 164



Theme Hear this children's story to introduce today's theme. Once upon a time, there was once a tiny, tiny star that lived out in space next to his parents and older brother. The parents were enormous stars. Their baby was much too young to go off on its own way, but it didn't stop him from trying. His parents were constantly telling him he needed to gravitate toward them until he got older. But he was so curious about what was going on in other parts of the galaxy and he was constantly shooting off here and there. On one such wandering adventure he realized he was lost. Comets and meteors silently flew and floated by once in a while, but mostly he was completely alone in the darkness (except for his own light). Ashamed for his disobedience, and very frightened for those dangerous consequences. He looked across the sky and knew his parents were in that cluster of milky white lights that even we see spread across the sky if we can get away from the lights of the city. But he couldn't tell one star from the other. How would he ever find his parents again, and even if he did, would they want him back for being so bad?

Meanwhile, in the middle of that starry cluster, his parents were beside themselves with worry because they loved their little wayward star so very much. They sent their older son to look for him. He looked until he found him and stayed with him, until he calmed him down, and he fed him and helped clean him up and told him how much his parents still loved him and have been watching for his return

every day -- Then he showed him the way back home. He was very, very happy and didn't wander off again until he was old enough and big enough to pull his own weight. And he was always so very grateful for his loving brother who came to find him and bring him home. (Ad. from *The Little Star* by Pedro Pablo Sacristán)

The Bible says we wander away from God – from our heavenly Father; and we find ourselves in the darkness of sin with all of its consequences and we can't find our way back. But God sends his Son, our brother Jesus to come and find us and he cleans us up and he becomes our way back home to the Father.

Music And that is what this first song describes. It invites people to come home to the heavenly Father through the Son -- and what an amazing day of rejoicing it will be when we enter the gates of eternal life with Jesus where we can all bring glory to God. Let's sing....



To God be the Glory

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

(Refrain)

3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

(Refrain)

Review and Interlude

What a wonderful God we have -- when we are lost, he sends Jesus to be our way back to him. To help us on our way back, Jesus has told us that he is the bread who came from heaven, the light of the world, the gate of entrance and protection, the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep, and last week we heard that he is the resurrection and the source of life. A lot happens between last week's Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead and this week's next "I am" saying. The religious leaders decide they must kill Jesus in order to ensure their survival because they believe this will help preserve their friendly relationship with Rome, and that is what they depended upon to survive. But Jesus will offer his life to restore the nation's (and world's) relationship *with God* (rather than Rome). In the meantime, Jesus withdrew from public appearances in Judea.

Then many people begin arriving at Jerusalem for Passover preparations. People were wondering if Jesus would show up. Religious leaders had given orders that anyone seeing him should report it so they could arrest him.

Six days before Passover the disciples returned with Jesus to Bethany and received a dinner in his honor served by Martha. Lazarus was there, as well as Mary, and this is when she anoints Jesus with an expensive perfume. Judas, the treasurer, objected to this act as a waste of a valuable resource, claiming it could have helped the poor, but John said the real reason was because he liked to embezzle from the funds. Jesus set him straight, saying there will always be opportunities to help the poor, but this was a once in a lifetime opportunity to express love in honor of his burial. (John 11:43-12:8)

Music Put yourself in the shoes and heart of the star who wandered away from home, or of Mary, whose prophetic actions were criticized by others, but defended and approved of by Jesus. Feel their hearts bursting with longing for him and then the joy of finding his loving support. Let us sing together...

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

1. Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills the breast;
but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.
2. O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,
to those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!
3. But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show;
the love of Jesus, what it is, none but his loved ones know.

4. Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be;
Jesus, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.

Interlude (Conclusion) Word got out that Jesus and Lazarus were near Jerusalem, and crowds came to see them both. Many became believers because of Lazarus, so the religious leaders planned on killing him as well. Then we have the entrance to Jerusalem that most of us know from Palm Sunday. John attributes the size of the welcoming crowd that day to the witnesses of Lazarus's resurrection who continued to spread the word of the miracle. The religious leaders were realizing it was getting out of their hands, that they were losing control of everything, and – the way they put it is “the whole world has gone after Jesus.”

Greeks also came to worship at the festival approached the disciples, wanting to meet Jesus. This prompted Jesus to talk about his need to die like a seed of wheat in order to be fruitful, and says this is a basic principle of life for us all. And now it was his time to be glorified, and when he is lifted up, he would draw all people to himself.

The crowd asked, “How can you be lifted up (to die) – when the Law said the Messiah will remain forever. Jesus simply replies, “Believe in the light while you have the light so you can become children of light.” Then he went into hiding until it was time...

John sums it up by saying that even though Jesus performed many signs in their presence, many still did not believe. But at the same time, even among the leaders, many did secretly believe, but were afraid to openly admit it lest they be put out of the faith. They worried more about human approval than God's approval.

(sum of John 12:9-43)

Intro to Bible Reading

Lay Reader: Then Jesus tells the crowds that trusting in him is trusting God, for there is unity between the heavenly Father and himself. Jesus speaks only God's words, In the end, we will be held accountable to that truth. --

Now it is Thursday night and Jesus gathers the disciples for a final Passover meal. He washes their feet, -- is deeply troubled, -- and sends Judas out in a way that no one else knew that Judas was leaving to betray Jesus.

(Sum of John 12:44-13:30)

Bible Reading

As soon as Judas left the room, Jesus said, “The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him. ... Dear

children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will seek me, ... but you can't come where I am going. So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other deeply and fully. Remember the ways that I have loved you, and demonstrate your love for others in those same ways. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Everyone will know you as My followers if you demonstrate your love to others."

Simon Peter asked, "Lord, where are you going?"

Jesus answered him, "You can't come with me now, but you will join me later."

"But why can't I come now, Lord?" Peter asked. "I will give my life for you."

(John 13:31,33-37)

Music Jesus gives a new command. It could be said that this command was his final marching orders to his followers – that if carried out, it would be demonstratable proof that they truly are his people. They must love as he loved.

Let's sing **They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love**

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Chorus

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

Chorus

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride.

Chorus

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.

Chorus

[Prayers]

God Moments This is your opportunity to offer a brief witness to something God has done in your life recently. [These were not recorded for the service script but are available on the website video]

Now let's settle our hearts and minds and continue to prepare for prayer to our gracious God as we listen to Donna and Kathy play *The Water is Wide*.

Special Music *The Water is Wide*

Pastor's Prayer

God of all creation, you are pure and holy. You created a perfect environment and a beautiful array of living things to move among it. But now we find ourselves in an imperfect world, and we confess that the sin in our own lives separates us from you, your will, and your ways. Forgive us, Lord, for making choices contrary to your purposes, for refusing to live by your guidance, for failing to trust that your ways are in place with our wellbeing in mind. Put out the fires of any residual anger and let forgiveness wash away any wrongs done to us, as well as any wrongs we may have committed. Close our eyes to temptation. We are thankful for your stubborn love and persistent grace that continues to work in the lives of your people. Now protect us and draw us deeper and deeper into your heart. Continue to empower us to turn from our willfulness and trust you alone for our rule of life, that we may serve you in the new day that you provide. For those that are hurting physically, emotionally, spiritually, relationally, or in any other way, we pray for the peace of spirit that comes from knowing your salvation, the rest that bodies need for recovery, and the minds of certain hope -- of ones who are held in your love.

Praises and Petitions Specifically, today, we pray for * David Babcock's friend who is having knee surgery this coming Friday, * Debbie Kirkpatrick's brother in law John recovering from open heart surgery, * Pat Schleh's friend Sara Anderson recovering from gallbladder surgery, * and her friend Margie's son Steve trying to recover after being badly burned in a saw mill explosion. And there are others on our hearts and minds that we also know -- that you know and are working your solutions in your time and in your way... Hear us as we lift those thoughts to you. [Pause to silently lift those on our hearts] Now help us listen for the whisper of your Spirit, and let us learn to walk in the ways you will show, even as you taught us to live as you taught us to pray

Lord's Prayer

(Portions of pastoral prayer ad. from

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Intro to Responsive Bible Reading

Lay Reader: Last week Jesus went to the tomb of Lazarus. Jesus was moved -- and troubled -- as he defeated death's hold on his friend. Now, the same "troubling" word (See John 13:21) is used as Jesus turns his attention to his own betrayal and death and what that would surely do in the hearts of the disciples.

Peter had asked where he was going and why couldn't he go with him and declared that he would die for him. Jesus questions Peter's dying commitment. He informs Peter that he will actually deny knowing Jesus three times before the morning rooster crows.

Now all the disciples are troubled by all the events we have heard today. Therefore, Jesus encourages them to have a faith that conquers fear. Sum of John 13:36-38



Responsive Bible Reading

(LR - Lay Reader, **PC - Pastor**, **LR/CONG – Lay Reader with Congregation**)

LR: Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not let your heart be troubled. Don't get lost in despair;

LR/CONG: you have put your trust in God, put your trust in Me also.

LR: In my Father's house are many rooms, designed to accommodate all of you. If it were not so, I would have told you that. I am going to prepare a place for you, to make arrangements for your arrival. I will be there to greet you personally and welcome you home, where we will be together. You know where I am going and how to get there.

PC: Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord, we don't know where you are going. How can we know the way to get there?"

LR/CONG: Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

LR: No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know Me, you know the Father. And now you know him and have seen him."

PC: Philip said to Jesus, "Lord, all we ask is that you show us the Father."

LR: Jesus said to Phillip, "I have lived with you all this time, and you still don't know who I am? How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and that the Father is in me? What I say to you, I do not say by My own power. The Father gives me these truths that I have been speaking to you

LR/CONG: and it is the Father that lives in me and does His work through Me.

LR: Accept these truths: I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me. If you have trouble believing based on My words, believe because of the things I have done. I tell you the truth: whoever puts his trust in Me can do the things I am doing. He will do even greater works than these because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified by the Son.

LR/CONG: If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. John 14:1-14

Music The ability to trust Jesus through troubling times is something that can give faithful people great comfort. Through the centuries, his promises have been tested and proven true again and again. Let's stand and stretch before the sermon and sing... **Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus**

1. 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, and to take him at his word;
just to rest upon his promise, and to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

Refrain

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more!

3. Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease;
just from Jesus simply taking life and rest, and joy and peace.

Refrain

4. I'm so glad I learned to trust thee, precious Jesus, Savior, friend;
and I know that thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end.

Refrain

Sermon I Am... the Way, Truth, Life: But How Can We Find the Way?

Jesus wants to instill a greater sense of that foundational faith that overcomes fear and trouble. That doesn't mean we will never fear or never have troubles – but that within troubling times, our hearts need not be paralyzingly troubled. During dark or scary times, we need not let fear cripple us from living, for we can sense that the light of the world has come for us to light the way and guide us through. We heard Jesus telling his followers that his father has plenty of room for everyone; and it is rightly most often interpreted as a place in heaven where we will be with the Lord forever.

**Where/How do we find peace
in our spiritual journey?**

But that phraseology also has a secondary meaning – something along the lines of secure rest stops along the journey before we get there.

Jesus may well be telling the disciples that as they live and move towards that final rest in heaven, that there are places and situations where we can dwell in peace in the presence of the Father. It begs the question, then: Where/How do we find peace on our spiritual journey?

Deuteronomy (1:20 ff) says to the newly freed slaves: “Don’t be afraid of the wilderness, of the powerful people living in the lands through which you will pass. God will lead you by cloud in the day and fire at night; and find places for them to dwell on their way to and show you the way you should go until you finally reach the promised land and then he will protect you from the foes that live in that land as well. These events would be in the forefront of everyone’s mind as they relive the exodus during the Passover festival (in which this conversation is taking place).

Jesus is adding that [like God did for the wilderness wanderers], he was going to go ahead of them and prepare those places and ultimately, that place he was going to take them. There are three levels of meaning that comes to us in this promise.

The **first** is that after Jesus’ death he would come back victorious in the end time to take them to be with him in heaven. **Second**, it also came to mean that Jesus would be there to welcome the disciples

Taken to the place (means)

- 1) Jesus in heaven**
- 2) Jesus meets us at death**
- 3) Jesus dwells in us now**

home upon their deaths. **Third**, it also means that Jesus was going to prepare a place where he would dwell with us now as we move with him through our life --



that is – in our hearts. Through Jesus death and resurrection and ascension and sending of the Spirit, and our faith, our belief in him; our hearts are prepared to be where Jesus is – and where Jesus is – is in our hearts. Then from within, Jesus prepares us for our ultimate destination with the Father.

Jesus is reassuring them that because they have faith, because they believe in him and the Father, they know where Jesus is going, and thus the way to the Father.

Thomas says, “uhhh, no we don’t... where you are going... so we can know the way [to the Father].”

The Way Reveals the Father

Jesus says, I AM the way, the truth and the life.

This way includes guiding us to salvation – in peace with God, and that it is a norm for a new way of living life here on earth. But in this particular text, the primary emphasis is not that Jesus is our guide who we follow on this path to heaven, on our spiritual journey. Nor is the emphasis that in Jesus we find the moral compass



for for how we live out that life. The primary emphasis *here* is that Jesus himself *is* the true path on which to travel to salvation and life. He doesn't guide us on the path, he *IS* the path. It is through Jesus-the-way that we arrive at the Father, because it is in Jesus that the Father is fully revealed.

So, if you know Jesus you know the Father, and if you see Jesus, you see the Father. Then Jesus adds, and from now on (not meaning this conversation, but meaning after his death and resurrection) you will know and see me – (not just see physically, but see with spiritual insight about who I was, and am, and have faith and believe in me). This insight leads to having faith in him and in the Father. Not that this insight leads to two faiths. We have one faith in both of them -- it is all one ball of wax -- one faith.

If you are lost, don't feel bad – the disciples didn't get it either. Philip says, "Show us the Father, and then we'll be satisfied."

We aren't sure exactly what Philip is asking there. This conversation is probably still in that upper room on that Passover, that last night – of his betrayal and before his death – and this

Show us (may mean)

1) like Moses?

2) like the prophets?

3) like the skeptic- glory seeker

conversation is having that supper with its emphasis on Exodus. That is what Passover was about. Maybe Phillip had in mind the great appearances of God to Moses on Sinai, when the thunderous clouds both hid and announced God's presence, not to mention that when Moses went up in the mountain and then came back down and his face was all aglow from being in God's glorious presence.

Maybe he meant the visions of the heavenly courts as they were seen by the prophets who heard the counsel of heaven and the spread God's wisdom to the people. Elijah was a prominent figure in the Passover feast as well. Or perhaps the words, while innocently uttered by Philip (for he had witnessed plenty), they were

used by John to represent the skeptical Christians of then and now who wanted Jesus to prove himself by some sort of mystical vision or miracle, or others who wanted to use God's miracles to bring glory to themselves. So, [in an urgent whisper] "show us the Father!"

Jesus gently replies to Philip, these types of God appearances are no longer necessary because in seeing me, you see God. "All this time I'm living with you and you still don't get it -- that the Father and I are in each other and are one? That whatever I do and whatever I say is one and the same as the Father. If you can't believe it because I told you, at least believe it because of what I've done. on the basis of the works God has done in me (same thing he told the Pharisees last week).

And -- if you see me (and thus the Father), you know me (and thus the Father); then you will do the same works as me and the Father do. In Matthew, Mark and Luke, the emphasis is on these greater things; well it says that here too, but in the other 3 books, the emphasis tended toward the miraculous nature of these greater things that we are all supposed to do. But here the emphasis is not so much on the results of these greater works.

Nor is the emphasis of receiving everything we want as if God were our personal Santa Claus, or vending machine fulfilling all or our wish lists. Instead, doing greater things and asking whatever we want is because -- and this is the important thing for John -- because we are so united in Christ and Christ is so united with the Father that we share in the same power -- but we also share the same purpose, and the same works, and have the same desire to not focus on personal gains and glory, but on the continuation of the work of Jesus.

<p>Same Works Requests United in Christ & Father</p>

All of these words uttered in this covenant moment in that upper room were meant to soothe what would be -- in a matter of hours -- hearts *deeply troubled* by fear. Soon they will leave the upper room for a peaceful walk and serene time of quiet prayer in a beautiful garden. Well, it wasn't exactly a serene prayer... it was for the disciples, they fell asleep, but for Jesus it wasn't. And then suddenly this pastoral scene turns into the chaotic horror of arrest and trial and beatings and death; and the scattering of the disciples.

Last week, it was Jesus who faced down the tomb. He did and Lazarus came back to life. But now it will be the disciples who will have to look into the cavern of

darkness and find a *way to true life* on the other side. The disciples will need – him – with them -- to find faith and believe in the midst of the fear that they will soon face. The same is true for us. If our heart is to be prepared for the gradual or sudden reversals that may come our way, (“things are out of hand and we are losing control of everything!”) Then we are going to have to find *the way* -- and find it often.

Just as a physical heart must be well fed and well run (food and exercise) to remain healthy, so the spiritual heart must be fed with faith in Christ and exercised by doing Christ’s works. And in filling our lives with faith, we empty it of fear of the darkness and its realm. For faith and fear cannot coexist in the same space. So, the fuller you are of one the less you can have of the other. It is like a glass of water. If it is filled with water, there is not much air. If it only has a little water, it has much air. So the fuller of Christ you are, the less fear that can be there, the less emptiness can be there, the less worry can be there, the less stress can be there...

You’ve probably heard the old Native American tale. An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life. “A fight is going on inside of me,” he said to the boy. “It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.”

He continued, “The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you – and inside every other person.”

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, “Which wolf will win?”

The old Cherokee simply replied, “The one you feed.”

Mark Twain also encourages us to not feed the negative wolf when he wrote, “Drag your thoughts away from your troubles... by the ears, by the heels, or any other way you can manage it.” And as an unknown author adds, “For peace of mind, resign from being the general manager of the Universe.” We can’t control everything, in fact, it’d probably be really scary if we truly grasped just how little control we do have. But the good news is that we can see and know who is in control and if we can allow Christ to prepare us from within by faith -- then we won’t have to drag our thoughts away, they will be driven away as we fill our lives with our faith in Christ, and our trust in him.

We are going to sing in a moment -- a prayer that God will work within to prepare our hearts for meeting the Father and doing his works. Let's bow our heads for prayer. While we hear the piano play, think about these things: [Piano and flute play softly]

- 1) How can I better feed my heart with healthy faith?
- 2) How can I better unite my life with the Son and Father through the Spirit he has given?
- 3) How can I better exercise my heart of faith and belief by doing the works of Christ and the Father in my life and in his world?



Or to put it simply: How can I better allow Jesus to grow my faith in him? How can I better exercise that faith by participating in his purpose, his works in this world?

[Extended Silence while piano and flute continue to play, then.]

Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You---.
(Repeat)

Prayer Let's pray. Lord, we confess that we are often troubled. Instead of chasing our faith, we chase our fears. And we so easily catch them and feed them and we are daily troubled by all sorts of things. Prepare us to turn it around, by turning us around – and to feed our faith and chase our fears away --- by connecting to our union with you and the Father by the way of Jesus, who makes the way and is the way. In that pursuit, allow us to catch our breath -- find our life -- and allow the stress and the strife to fade out of focus and out of our lives and out of our hearts.

You've already promised your healing light, your nourishing bread that feeds us and makes us strong -- You invite us to participate in you. Fill us with your joy and love, fill us so full that even while our lives may be filled with troubles, there will be no room for our hearts to be troubled. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Music Jesus has promised much to us, and we have asked him to prepare our hearts so that he can live in us as the Father lived in him. For all of these promises for us, he asks us to promise to faithfully continue his work in the world. Let's sing our closing song...

O Jesus, I Have Promised

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

2. O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

3. O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

4. O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

^ Blessing Now as the Way opens our path before us, let us boldly move forward the places along the journey he prepares within us and around us -- that we may travel the way we should go -- into the peace of the Father. Amen.

* Note: All music lyrics: CCLI # 2561297

All Scripture readings are a blend of NLT, NMB, VOICE unless otherwise indicated