



MEDITATION TEXTS

And this is what it means to be able to see yourself as a sinner: far from “seeing yourself as a sinner” being some sort of moralistic demand that you browbeat yourself and come up with a list of alleged failings, being able to see yourself as a sinner is merely the sign that you are able to hold yourself peacefully and realistically as being who you are, non-defensively, because you know yourself loved. You are no longer frightened of being seen to be, or actually being, a failure.

– James Alison, *Jesus the Forgiving Victim*

It is well known that these enslaved persons, over against their masters’ wishes, viewed events like God’s redemption of Israel from slavery as paradigmatic for their understanding of God’s character. They claimed that God is fundamentally a liberator. The character of Jesus, who though innocent suffered unjustly at the hands of an empire, resonated on a deep level with the plight of the enslaved Black person. This focus on God as liberator stood in stark contrast to the focus of the slave masters who emphasized God’s desire for a social order with white masters at the top and enslaved Black people at the bottom.

Esau McCaulley,

Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Chiming the Trinity

Prelude

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Alan Hester, Choral Scholar 2017-2021

arr. Dallas Blair

Invocation

Randy Brittain

*Hymn

*He leadeth me O blessed thought
O words with heavenly comfort fraught
Whate'er I do where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me*

He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought

HE LEADETH ME

*Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom
By water's calm o'er troubled sea
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me*
Refrain

Refrain:

*He leadeth me He leadeth me
By His own hand He leadeth me
His faithful follower I would be
For by His hand He leadeth me*

*Lord I would clasp Thy hand in mine
Nor ever murmur nor repine
Content whatever lot I see
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me*
Refrain

Recognition of College Graduates

Emily Harbin

Leader: We gather today to celebrate these beloved members of our community of faith. We stand alongside families, teachers, and community leaders who have invested in their lives.

Graduates: We have studied for years: striving toward goals, pursuing knowledge, learning about ourselves and the world around us.

Congregation: We thank you for the investment of your time and talents in this place and we celebrate all you have achieved.

Graduates: We are grateful to have shared in worship, study, and fellowship with you. We will carry these experiences with us, using what we have learned to build new relationships that strengthen and sustain our faith.

Congregation: We pray for blessings on these graduates. May they continue to seek to hear God’s voice and reflect God’s love in each new season of their lives.

Leader: Graduates, we send you out to new schools, new jobs, and new communities.

Congregation: As you go, know that you are not alone. The love of God will hold you, the light of Christ will guide you, and the Spirit of God will sustain you.

Testimony in Song

The 23rd Psalm
Anne Brittain, Soprano

Albert Hay Malotte

*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, tho' I walk thro' 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 anointest 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, and evermore.*

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Emily Harbin

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

John 10:11-18

Frank Granger

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Children's Moment

Janet Cleland

Sermon

Peacefully a Sheep

Matt Marston

***Hymn 405**

Savoir Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BRADBURY

*Saviour like a shepherd lead us
 Much we need thy tender care
 In thy pleasant pastures feed us
 For our use thy folds prepare
 Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
 Thou hast bought us thine we are
 Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
 Thou hast bought us thine we are*

*Thou hast promised to receive us
 Poor and sinful though we be
 Thou hast mercy to relieve us
 Grace to cleanse and pow'r to free
 Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
 Early let us turn to thee
 Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
 Early let us turn to thee*

*We are thine do thou befriend us
 Be the guardian of our way
 Keep thy flock from sin defend us
 Seek us when we go astray
 Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
 Hear O hear us when we pray
 Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
 Hear O hear us when we pray*

*Early let us seek thy favour
 Early let us do thy will
 Blessed Lord and only Saviour
 With thy love our beings fill
 Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
 Thou hast loved us love us still
 Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus
 Thou hast loved us love us still*

Prayer of Stewardship

Al Henderson, Deacon

Offertory

This is My Father's World

arr. Gary Lanier

Ryan Bratton, Choral Scholar 2017-2021

***Response of the People**

Doxology

OLD 100TH

*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*

Benediction

Matt Marston

Postlude

Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given in loving memory of Mary Hazel Hershey Pittman and in celebration of her life and the love that she shared with so many. They are given by Ray and Gayle; Nicholas, Courtney, Ella Grace, Caroline, Margaret; and Jared, Christina, Kade, Brooks, and Brody Noblet.