

*Persian mystic Rumi is one of the most often quoted mystics in our day, transcending religious lines. He said this: “Do not feel lonely, the entire universe is inside you. Stop acting so small. You are the universe in ecstatic motion. Set your life on fire. Seek those who fan your flames.”*

### **Fifth Sunday in Lent: Connection**

April 6, 2025 10:30 AM

#### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Prelude and Fugue in E Minor" J. S. Bach

*(\*) Indicates that all are invited to stand*

#### **\*LENTEN INVITATION**

One: Awe-inspiring God, we come together this day  
because we need to be reminded to see through the lens of wonder.

**All: Inspire us to receive our surroundings with awe.**

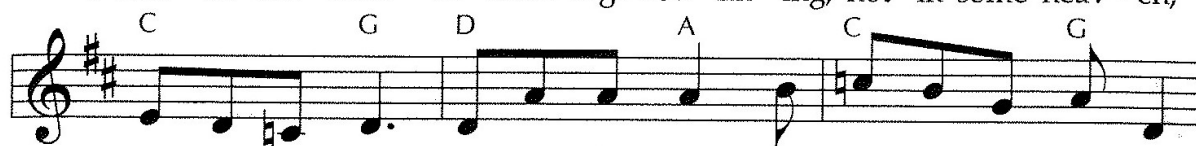
One: Forgive us when we focus only on what's wrong  
rather than allowing the right and good to show us the way forward.

**All: Be with us on this journey as we seek again to marvel at all your works of love!**

\*GATHERING HYMN "Here in this Place" #401 *Glory to God Hymnal*



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

\*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

**LISTENING**

*God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.*

CONTEMPORARY READING

an excerpt from an article by researcher Brené Brown entitled, “*Why Experiencing Joy and Pain in a Group Is So Powerful*”

SCRIPTURE READING    Psalm 121        Pew Bible p. 498

SERMON

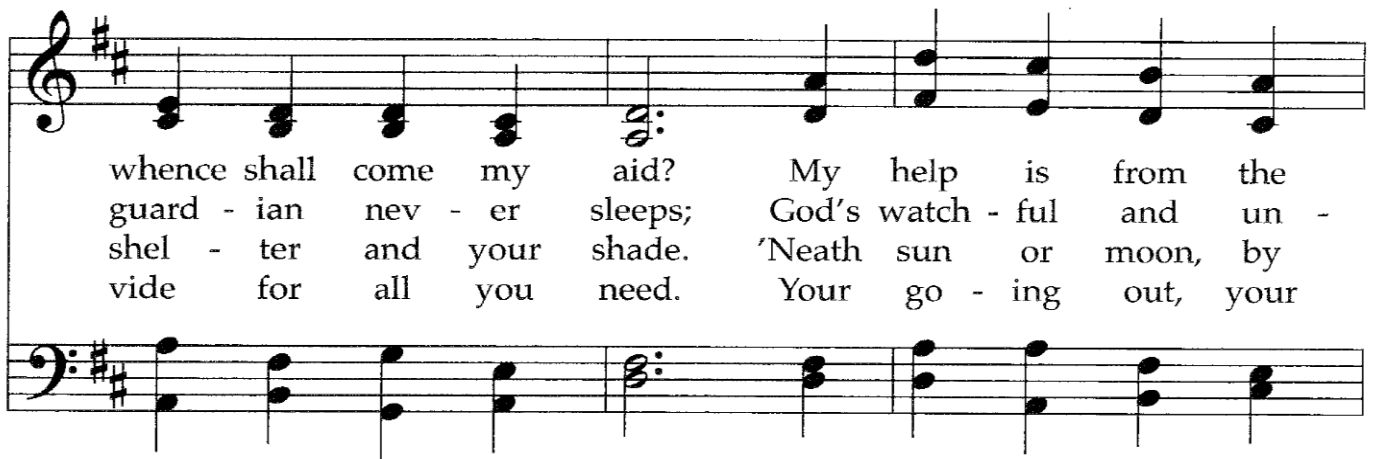
SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF REFLECTION

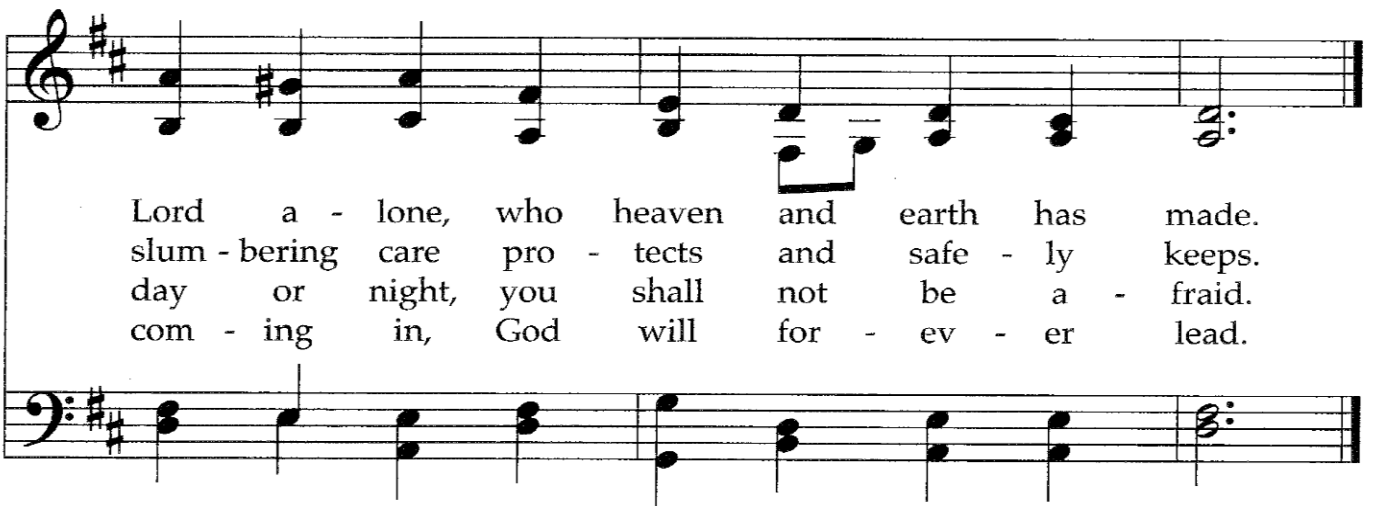
"I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes" #45  
*Glory to God Hymnal*



1 I to the hills will lift my eyes; from  
 2 God will not let your foot be moved; your  
 3 Your faith - ful keep - er is the Lord, your  
 4 From e - vil God will keep you safe, pro -



whence shall come my aid? My help is from the  
 guard - ian nev - er sleeps; God's watch - ful and un -  
 shel - ter and your shade. 'Neath sun or moon, by  
 vide for all you need. Your go - ing out, your



Lord a - lone, who heaven and earth has made.  
 slum - bering care pro - tects and safe - ly keeps.  
 day or night, you shall not be a - fraid.  
 com - ing in, God will for - ev - er lead.

## RESPONDING

*We respond to God's Word through our prayers and our gifts.*

### NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: "Visio Divina"



image by Freepik

### 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 forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY "Christ the Life of All the Living" Anton Wilhelm Leupold

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE: tune #778 *New Century Hymnal*

**Praise God, Creator of us all, Praise Christ, by whom we hear our call,  
Praise Spirit, that which sets us free, Our awe is yours, the One-in-Three.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## SENDING

*With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.*

\* COMMISSIONING HYMN “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” #25 *New Century Hymnal*  
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.**

**Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,  
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten, as a dream fades at the opening day.**

**O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Still be our God while troubles last, and our eternal home!**

\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Toccata in D Minor" Johann Ernst Eberlin

---

Worship Endnotes: Various worship elements are adapted from [www.worshipdesignstudio.com](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com)  
Music reprinted by permission OneLicense A-722326

**Lent Week 5 reflection and activity:** *What does community mean to you? How would you describe your own sense of belonging? Find a way to capture in a photo how it feels to be connected and accepted. If you'd like to share your photos, please email them to Pastor Sarah at [smccann@hopeuccstl.org](mailto:smccann@hopeuccstl.org)*

Donate from  
your smart  
phone

