

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Benton Harbor



“You Sure About That?”

Psalm 13 + Exodus 22:1-14

Standing Tall on Morton Hill for over 130 Years

June 28, 2026 • The Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We Are Welcomed

Welcome

Opening Prayer "I Worship Anyway" by Esther Spurrill-Jones

They call me evil, sin, obscenity;
They fear and threaten my identity;
They suppose that I can pray away the gay;
I worship anyway.

They slander who I am and what I do;
They claim that I could never follow You;
They close the gates to frighten me away;
I worship anyway.

You know the truth, and You have made me free,
And in Your House, You've made a place for me.
You cleaned and painted to tempt me to stay.
I worship anyway.

They shun me, mock me, ridicule my truth
As if a "queer Christian" is but a spoof.
They don't want me. They wish I'd go away.
I worship anyway.

They sing of love and strongholds falling down,
And build up walls and bulwarks all around;
When strongholds fall, they counter with dismay.
I worship anyway.

You know the truth, and You have made me free,
And in Your House, You've made a place for me.
You cleaned and painted to tempt me to stay.
I worship anyway.

Prelude + Setting the Table for Worship

We Are Gathered

The Call to Worship

based on Psalm 13

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;
lighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;
lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him" –
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

**We come to you O Lord,
seeking answers to our questions.
We come to you O God,
because you are the Creator.**

But I have trusted your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

**We come looking for a song to sing;
We wait for your voice
to call us from beyond our fear.**

Song of Praise *Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*

Great is Thy Faithfulness *Glory to God #39*
[see next page]

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**O Lord, you taught us to love you and our neighbor,
but we have not lived in right relationship
or walked in the light of your love.
Forgive us for the wrongs we have done;
we know that the wages of sin is death.
Yet we trust in your gift of forgiveness,
which is freedom and life in Christ.**

[moment for silent confession]

39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
날 마 다 자 비 를 베 푸 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

Assurance of Forgiveness

Song of Gratitude

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me” *Glory to God #582*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, amen.

Passing of the Peace

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Psalm 13 *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I bear pain in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
and my enemy will say, “I have prevailed”; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord because he has dealt bountifully with me.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

A Time for Young People

Song of Preparation

From the Rising of the Sun

Glory to God #670

[see next page]

Scripture Reading

Genesis 22:1-14 *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide," as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Holy wisdom, holy word

Thanks be to God!

From the Rising of the Sun 670

(Psalm 113)

From the ris - ing of the sun to the go - ing down

of the same, the name of the Lord shall be

praised. From the ris - ing of the sun to the

go - ing down of the same, the name of the Lord shall be

praised. So praise ye the Lord.

Praise ye the Lord. From the

ris - ing of the sun to the go - ing down of the same,

the name of the Lord shall be praised.

Proclamation of the Word

You Sure About That?

Rev. Sheth LaRue

Moment of Meditation

We Respond to God's Word

The Offertory

Quarter Donations Recipient: the OutCenter of Southwest Michigan

Doxology *Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Christ all creatures here below

Praise Holy Spirit evermore

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

The Prayer of Dedication

Joys + Concerns

Prayers of the People

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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.

Song of Trust

Amen *Glory to God #600*

Announcements

We Are Sent by God

Song of Sending *Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*

The Storm is Passing Over

Songs of Zion #58

[see next page]

Charge + Benediction

Postlude

Questions for Reflection

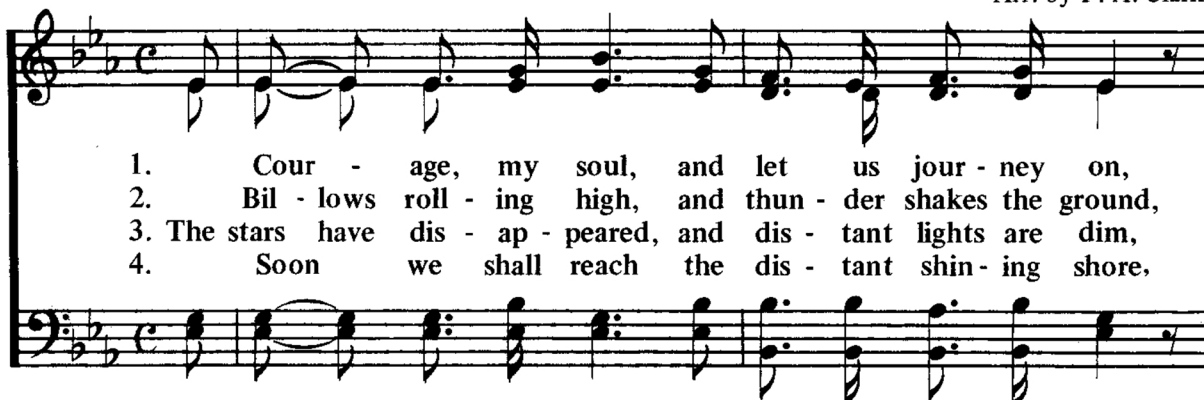
The life and witness of the prophet Jeremiah remind us that in challenging times we often choose denial and despair and resort to easy answers. How can we more faithfully discern God's will during times of trial in our life, nation, or church? At the expense of comfort, ease, and half-truths, to whom or to what do you turn for the courage to choose justice, hope, and truth, and what is the reward that you seek?

The Storm is Passing Over

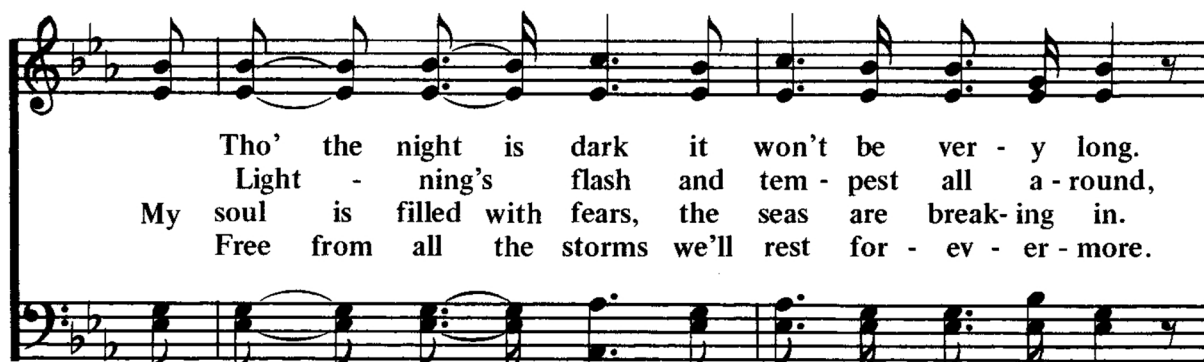
Charles Albert Tindley, 1851-1933

Arr. by F. A. Clark

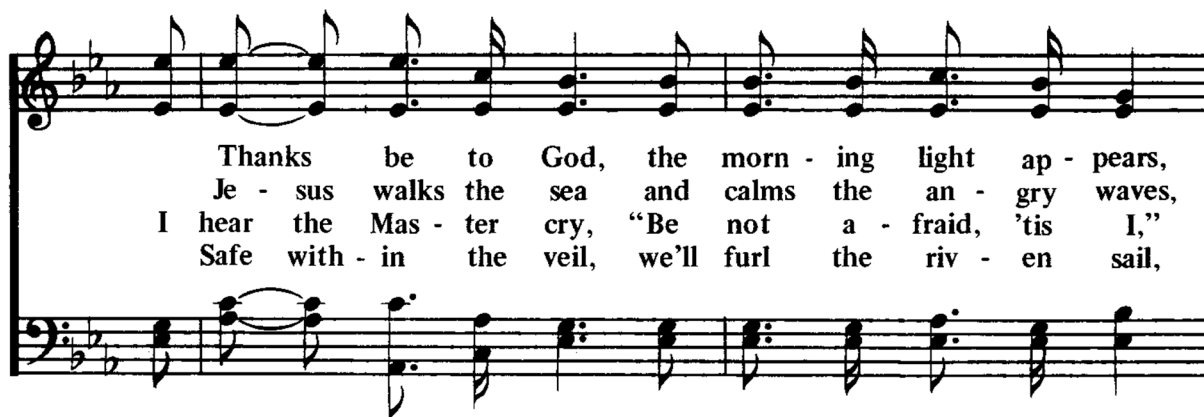
C.A.T.



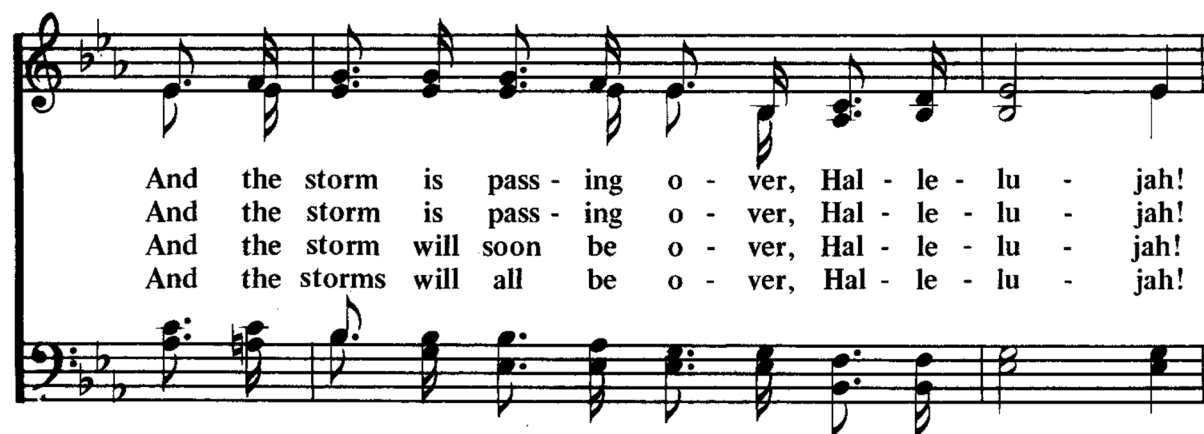
1. Cour - age, my soul, and let us jour - ney on,
 2. Bil - lows roll - ing high, and thun - der shakes the ground,
 3. The stars have dis - ap - peared, and dis - tant lights are dim,
 4. Soon we shall reach the dis - tant shin - ing shore,



Tho' the night is dark it won't be ver - y long.
 Light - ning's flash and tem - pest all a - round,
 My soul is filled with fears, the seas are break - ing in.
 Free from all the storms we'll rest for - ev - er - more.



Thanks be to God, the morn - ing light ap - pears,
 Je - sus walks the sea and calms the an - gry waves,
 I hear the Mas - ter cry, "Be not a - afraid, 'tis I,"
 Safe with - in the veil, we'll furl the riv - en sail,



And the storm is pass - ing o - ver, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 And the storm is pass - ing o - ver, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 And the storm will soon be o - ver, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 And the storms will all be o - ver, Hal - le - lu - jah!

The Storm is Passing Over

Refrain

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!



The storm is pass - ing o - ver, Hal - le - lu - jah!

