

Thursday + Friday, 4:15 p.m., Covenant Fine Arts Center, Auditorium

Finding Light in the Darkness

In this worship service we pray with psalms set to soulful Irish and Scottish melodies, exploring how God's light shines even in the midst of our darkest nights, guiding us into places of joy, forgiveness, and peace.

Gathering Songs

Sing to the Lord

based on Psalms 98, 99, 100

Praise the Lord, All the Earth

based on Psalm 104

Prelude

O God, You Are My God

based on Psalm 63

Call to Worship

Leader: O God, we long for you.

All: Our souls long to rest in the presence of the Living God.

O God, we yearn for you.

Our hearts yearn to be filled with your goodness and love.

O God, bring light to our darkness.

Shine your light on the dark places in our lives and guide us in the way of your peace.

Introit

The Lord's My Shepherd

based on Psalm 23

Opening Prayer

My God, My God

based on Psalm 22

Hear My Cry, O God

based on Psalm 61

Scripture Reading

Acts 16:25–34

You Have Turned My Sorrow

based on Psalm 30

Message (Part One)

For Love Is Lord of All

based on Psalm 86

Message (Part Two)

O Give Thanks

based on Psalm 107

Prayers for Unity

Leader: God of faith:

You have called us to be a new community with Jesus as our cornerstone.

Forgive us when fear or anxiety uproots our faith;

when worry and blame break our friendships:

Help us learn from those who express faith in different ways.

Help us discover new ways to witness in this world.

God of faith we pray:

All: Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

God of hope:

You are the one who hears the groans of the prisoners.

You liberate those in despair. You are the God who comforts.

Bring hope to the homeless; healing to those in pain; strength to the weak and lonely;

speaking your saving health into all the dark places of this world so that a generation not yet born may come to praise your name.

God of hope we pray:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

God of love:

We want to celebrate the greatness of your love

so that we are no longer divided by the littleness of our own love.

Forgive us for being so focused on our own needs that we neglect to build your kingdom.

Yours is the everlasting kingdom.

Save us from considering as normal that which is an offense to your love.

We praise you that Jesus left his royal throne to be a refugee, so that we could be welcomed into his family. For those who feel strangers in this world today help us bear witness to Christ's love.

Release us from self-love. Holy Spirit keep your love aflame within our hearts.

God of love we pray:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by your cross.

The Lord's Prayer

Come, Spirit, Come

based on Psalm 144

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

based on Psalm 147

Benediction

Postlude

I Lift My Eyes Up to the Hills

based on Psalm 121

Leaders: Brian Bolton, Karen Campbell, Brian Hehn, Vanessa League, Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy, Chloe McGrath, Declan McGrath, Ellen McGrath, Joshua Parks, Greg Scheer, Luke Tilma, and Kiran Young Wimberly