

*HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

#339 (Hymnal)

***Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me save that thou art –
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.***

***Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.***

***Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.***

PRAYER

(adapted from a prayer by Rev. Eleanor Macalister)

God of mountains and prairies, rainbows and rain - we praise you for emblazoning the world with color and light, and for calling forth our wonder and praise. Thank you for loving us, calling us, believing in us and for filling us with a desire to serve.

Forgive us when we fail to see beauty and goodness that should remind us of your love. Forgive us when we fail to answer your call, care for our neighbors, or love those nearest us as deeply as we could. Forgive us when the world's troubles or our own failures tempt us to despair.

We thank you for not giving up on us. We are grateful to be sustained by your grace, even in our darkest moments. Restore our spirits, we pray, and help us lift up our hearts to hope, and our hands to service, in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 77:1-12

ANTHEM

"Lord, Have Mercy"

arr. Hal H. Hopson

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 10

SERMON

"Before We Can Hope"

Pastor Janet

HYMN

"There Is a Longing"

#141(Lift Up Your Hearts)

***There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in you, our God.***

For justice, for freedom, for mercy, hear our prayer.

In sorrow, in grief, be near, hear our prayer, O God.

Refrain

For wisdom, for courage, for comfort, hear our prayer.

In weakness, in fear, be near, hear our prayer, O God.

Refrain

For healing, for wholeness, for new life, hear our prayer.

In sickness, in death, be near, hear our prayer, O God.

Refrain

Lord, save us, take pity, light in our darkness.

We call you, we wait. Be near, hear our prayer, O God.

Refrain

PRAYER

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

MISSION INTERPRETATION: Peace and Global Witness Offering Eileen Best

*HYMN "How Can I Keep From Singing?" #2212 (*Sing the Faith*)

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.

What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!

All things are mind sine I am his! How can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE "Be Rooted in Hope" Paul Vasile, used by permission

Be rooted in hope. Be tended in grace,

Nourished by light from God's loving face.

Bear fruit that will last and let your lives be

A sign of the peace that can heal and set free.

POSTLUDE

"Wherever You Go"

Jim Brickman

