



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024

Prelude: "Just As I Am"

arr. Joel Raney

Welcome

Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter

❖ Hymn: "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

ABERYSTWYTH

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past.
Safe into the haven guide. O receive my soul at last.

Hymn 440, vv. 1-2

Other refuge have I none; hangs my helpless soul on thee.
Leave, ah! Leave me not alone; still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed; all my help from thee I bring.
Cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing.

Psalm 6

Song without Words Op. 62, No. 3 in E minor

Felix Mendelssohn

Hymn: "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"

RESTORATION

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love and power.
I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

Hymn 414, vv. 1,4

Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him.
I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

Psalm 32:1-7

Blessed are we who seek to know the whole
of who we are:

The gifts... The limits

The light... The shadows

The strengths... The weaknesses

The saint... The sinner

Who know, accept and seek to live in truth,
Who readily say 'I'm sorry' and learn from mistakes,
Who seek the good for all creatures
in the finitude of possibility.

For the weight of harm caused
bears down heavily.

The heart so burdened
cannot sing.

Strength is sapped,
the will paralyzed.

**Only truth sets us free,
truth and forgiveness,
the deep and gentle acceptance of condition,
the slate wiped clean
to permit love to be writ anew.**

Let all burdened seek truth and freedom,
attend to the consequences of choices,
extend and accept the balm of forgiveness,
and face into the future with hope.

Love is come again.

**In the depths of silence
and the words of the wise,
our hearts are instructed.**

This is the invitation; heed it well.

For torment need not be our lot.

**Trust in steadfast love
and the power that moves in all things
to give life.**

Be glad and rejoice.

Love is come again,
and again,
forever.

Song without Words Op. 38, No. 6 in A-flat Major

Choral Hymn: "Come, Ye Disconsolate"

Come, you disconsolate, where'er you languish;
come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.

Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish;
earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot heal.

Joy of the desolate, light of the straying,
hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure!

Here speaks the Comforter, in mercy saying,
"Earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot cure."

CONSOLATOR

Psalm 38:3b-22

(to be read silently)

...there's no health in my bones because of my sin.
My wrongdoings are stacked higher than my head;
they are a weight that's way too heavy for me.
My wounds reek; they are all infected because of my stupidity.
I am hunched over, completely down; I wander around all day long, sad.
My insides are burning up; there's nothing in my body that isn't broken.
I'm worn out, completely crushed; I groan because of my miserable heart.
Everything I long for is laid out before you, my Lord;
my sighs aren't hidden from you.
My heart pounds; my strength abandons me. Even the light of my eyes is gone.
My loved ones and friends keep their distance from me in my sickness;
those who were near me now stay far away.
Those who want me dead lay traps;
those who want me harmed utter threats, muttering lies all day long.
But I'm like someone who is deaf, who can't hear;
like someone who can't speak, whose mouth won't open.
I've become like a person who doesn't hear what is being said,
whose mouth has no good comeback.
But I wait for you, Lord! You will answer, my Lord, my God!
Because I prayed: "Don't let them celebrate over me
or exalt themselves over me when my foot slips,"
because I'm very close to falling, and my pain is always with me.
Yes, I confess my wrongdoing; I'm worried about my sin.
But my mortal enemies are so strong;
those who hate me for no reason seem countless.
Those who give, repay good with evil; they oppose me for pursuing good.
Don't leave me all alone, Lord! Please, my God, don't be far from me!
Come quickly and help me, my Lord, my salvation!

Prelude Op. 35, No. 5 in F minor

Hymn: "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin.
From earth-born passions set me free,
and make me pure within.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray.
Through darkness and perplexity
point thou the heavenly way.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see,
and share thy joy at last.**

Psalm 51:1-17

Song without Words Op. 62, No. 1 in G Major

SOUTHWELL
Hymn 417, vv. 1, 3-4

Hymn: "I Need Thee Every Hour"

**I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.
I need Thee, oh, I need Thee; every hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.**

**I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide, or life is vain.
I need Thee, oh, I need Thee; every hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.**

Psalm 102:1-22

**O God, hear my prayer;
be moved by my cry for help.**

Do not hide your face
when I am in dire straits.

Listen to my prayer;
be quick to make a response.

My days vanish like smoke,
my body is almost burnt out.

**I wither away like grass
and forget to take any food.**

**All day I groan out loud;
I am nothing but skin and bones.**

Like a desert owl in waste places,
like a lonely bird on the rooftop,
I lie awake, all alone.

My enemies constantly taunt me;
in their rage they conspire against me.

My bread is ashes, my drink salt tears;
you have lifted me up and thrown me aside.

**Do not leave me with my life half-lived,
you whose life lasts forever.**

Long ago you laid the earth's foundations;
the heavens also are the work of your hands.

They will perish, but you endure;
your years will never end.

**Those who serve you,
and their descendants,
will remain in your presence forever.**

Sehnsüchtig (Longing) Op. 7, No. 6

Hymn: "Out of the Depths"

**Out of the depths I cry to you;
O Lord God, hear me calling.
Incline your ear to my distress
in spite of my rebelling.
Do not regard my sinful deeds.
Send me the grace my spirit needs;
without it I am nothing.**

AUS TIEFER NOT
Hymn 424, vv. 1, 4

**My soul is waiting for you, Lord,
as one who longs for morning;
No watcher waits with greater hope
than I for your returning.
I hope as Israel in the Lord,
who sends redemption through the Word.
Praise God for grace and mercy!**

Psalm 130

Song without Words Op. 19b, No. 2 in A minor

Hymn: "O Lord Hear My Prayer"

**O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.**

HEAR MY PRAYER
Hymn 471, v. 1

Psalm 143:1-11

**Tell me all about your faithful love come morning time,
because I trust you.
Show me the way I should go, because I offer my life up to you.**

Listen to my prayer, Lord!
Because of your faithfulness, hear my requests for mercy!
Because of your righteousness, answer me!
Please don't bring your servant to judgment,
because no living thing is righteous before you.
The enemy is chasing me, crushing my life in the dirt,
forcing me to live in the dark those who've been dead forever.
My spirit is weak inside me – inside, my mind is numb.

**Tell me all about your faithful love come morning time,
because I trust you.
Show me the way I should go, because I offer my life up to you.**

I remember the days long past;
I meditate on all your deeds;
I contemplate your handiwork.
I stretch out my hands to you;
my whole being is like dry dirt, thirsting for you.
Answer me, Lord – and quickly! My breath is fading.
Don't hide your face from me
or I'll be like those going down to the pit!

**Tell me all about your faithful love come morning time,
because I trust you.
Show me the way I should go,
because I offer my life up to you.**

Deliver me from my enemies, Lord!
I seek protection from you.
Teach me to do what pleases you,
because you are my God.
Guide me by your good spirit
into good land.
Make me live again, Lord, for your name's sake.
Bring me out of distress because of your righteousness.

**Tell me all about your faithful love come morning time,
because I trust you.
Show me the way I should go,
because I offer my life up to you.**

Song without Words Op. 102, No. 4 in G minor

Assurance of Forgiveness

Imposition of Ashes

from dust you came and to dust you shall return

Postlude: "Song without Words Op. 30, No. 3"

(You are invited to linger as long as you like and depart in silence when you are ready.)



Notes on Scripture and Music

Biblical scholars often classify individual psalms into various categories according to their content, theme, and structure. Early in the Church's history, certain psalms came to be set apart for liturgical use in the confession of sin and repentance, and by the 6th century, seven penitential psalms seem to have been in common use. Pope Innocent III (1161 – 1216) ordered that these penitential psalms be recited during Lent and Holy Week. *The Roman Breviary*, an ancient service book of the priests of the Roman Catholic Church, provided a special place for the penitential psalms. The Church of England's *Book of Common Prayer* designates them as appropriate for use on Ash Wednesday and in other Lenten prayer services. Other Christian traditions also find these psalms of great value, especially at times when lament is appropriate.

The composer Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) was born into an educated and wealthy German Jewish family. When Felix was seven years old, his parents had their children baptized in the Lutheran church. While embracing the Christian faith and composing many sacred works in the Christian tradition, Mendelssohn remained aware of and respectful of his Jewish heritage.

While the *Songs Without Words* and other pieces chosen for today's program were not composed as "sacred music," they express the spectrum of emotional themes found in the penitential psalms: suffering, grief, lament, longing for help, acceptance, and trust, among others.

In reference to his *Songs Without Words* Mendelssohn wrote: "People often complain that music is too uncertain in its meaning...whereas everyone understands words. With me it is exactly the reverse, and not only in the context of an entire speech, but also with individual words. These, too, seem to me so uncertain, so vague, so easily misunderstood in comparison to genuine music that fills the soul with a thousand things better than words. The thoughts expressed to me by the music I love are not too indefinite to be put into words, but on the contrary, too definite."

As Paul writes to the church at Rome: "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."

Officiant: Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter

Music/Accompanists:

Alice Brooks Sanders, piano

BPC Choir

Citations:

Psalms 32:1-7 and Psalm 51:1-17 from *Psalms Redux: Poems and Prayers* by Carla A. Grosch-Miller.

Psalms 38:3b-22 and Psalm 143:1-11 from the Common English Bible.

Psalm 102:1-22 from *Iona Abbey Worship Book, rev. ed.*

Psalm 130, adapted by Stephen Mitchell.

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To help focus your Lenten journey, several resources are available in the narthex for you to choose from and take home to use with your household.
