

Rizpah Mourns her Sons Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 21st, 2020 Sunday Virtual Worship at 10:30am



Call to Worship

One: In worship,

All: May we be as welcoming as Sarah and Abraham, who were quick to serve the

stranger.

One: In faith,

All: May we proclaim that nothing is too big for God.

One: In moments of holy surprise,

All: May we laugh with deep abiding joy.

One: For God is in the holy surprise. All: God is in the winding path.

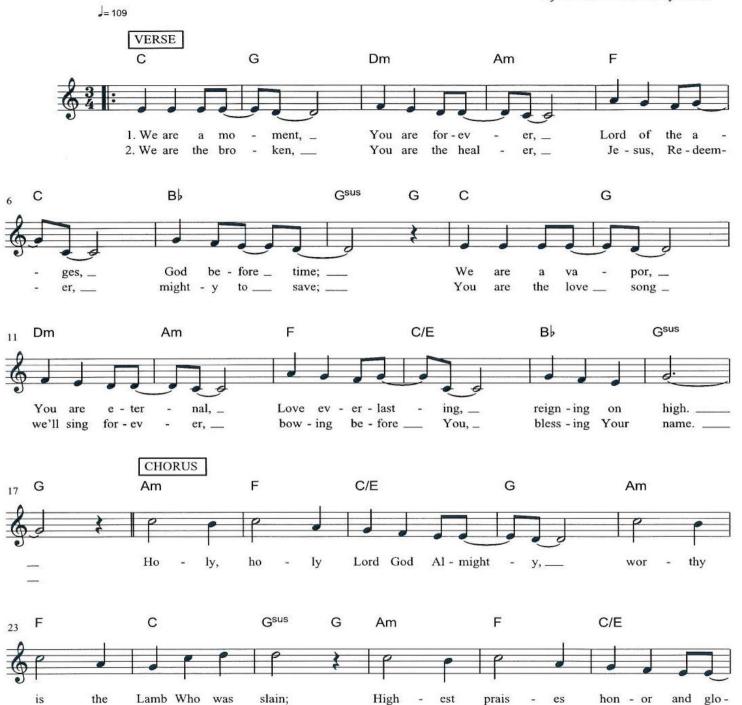
One: And God is in our presence today.

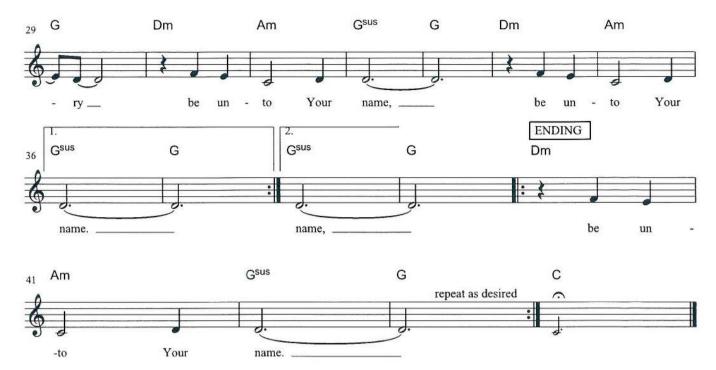
All: Let us worship Holy God.

Gathering Song – Be Unto Your Name & Where Justice Rolls Down

Be Unto Your Name

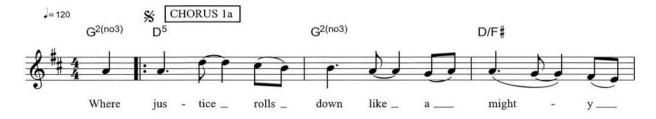
Words and Music by Lynn DeShazo and Gary Sadler

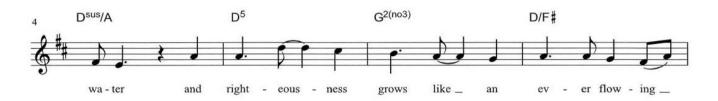


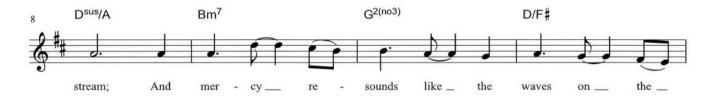


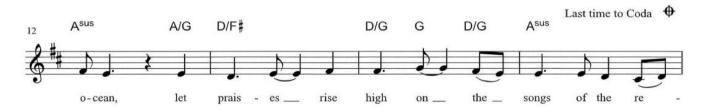
Where Justice Rolls Down

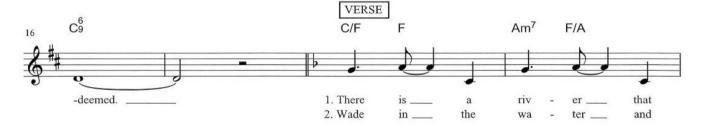
Words and Music by Bob Stromberg, Rick Carlson and Michael Pearce Donley















Introduce the Theme with Kids

Welcome, RiverSource and Keyboards

No Longer Strangers Prayer

Holy Spirit of God,

You blow into our lives and send us in directions we never would have gone on our own. Send us into the lives of people we don't know, people we would call 'stranger' and reveal yourself right there to us. We are no longer strangers to each other – you make us brother and sister. Amen.

Greeting

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, we believe that God meets you here. We gather in the name of God the eternal Creator – Jesus Christ, God's only Son and the Holy Spirit – who is with you always... And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess that God is God and we are not.

Silence for prayer and contemplation.

Faithful and Merciful God, you know us. You know our lives. Clean up our hearts and minds. By your Holy Spirit, make us new.

All: Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

God we confess—we are loose ends. You give us the gift of community, and we weave walls of exclusion and isolation.

You give us the gift of a new day, and we spend more time unraveling justice than sewing seeds of peace and unity.

You give us the gift of holy surprises and unimaginable beauty, and we shut off our hearts and our blindfolded eyes.

Forgive us for our frayed ends and self-centered hearts.

Unravel the sin in us and replace it with love. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

God of unexpected joy and answered prayers, we know that sometimes things feel too good to be true, while at other times we wonder if you hear us at all.

When life unravels for the worst—remind us that you walk with us in the trouble. When life unravels for the best, filling our days with holy surprise— may we shout praises to you for this unexpected joy. Give us eyes to see you in our midst when life unravels, and with every breath that turns into a laugh, draw us closer to you.

Amen.

THE STORY

Narrator: Our story and God's story continues with a reading from 2 Samuel 3:7; 21:1-14

Narrator: David's son Abner took advantage of the continuing war between the house of Saul and the house of David to gain power for himself. Saul had had a concubine, Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah. One day Ish-Bosheth, Saul's son, confronted Abner: "What business do you have sleeping with my father's concubine?"

Congregation: There was a famine during David's reign that lasted for three years, so David asked the Lord about it. And the Lord said, "The famine has come because Saul and his family are guilty of murdering the Gibeonites." So the king summoned the Gibeonites. They were not part of Israel but were all that was left of the nation of the Amorites. The people of Israel had sworn not to kill them, but Saul, in his zeal for Israel and Judah, had tried to wipe them out. David asked them, "What can I do for you? How can I make amends so that you will bless the Lord's people again?"

Narrator: "Well, money can't settle this matter between us and the family of Saul," the Gibeonites replied. "Neither can we demand the life of anyone in Israel."

Congregation: "What can I do then?" David asked. "Just tell me and I will do it for you." Then they replied, "It was Saul who planned to destroy us, to keep us from having any place at all in the territory of Israel. So let seven of Saul's sons be handed over to us, and we will execute them before the Lord at Gibeon, on the mountain of the Lord." "All right," the king said, "I will do it." The king spared Jonathan's son Mephibosheth, who was Saul's grandson, because of the oath David and Jonathan had sworn before the Lord.

Narrator: But he gave them Saul's two sons Armoni and Mephibosheth, whose mother was Rizpah daughter of Aiah. He also gave them the five sons of Saul's daughter Merab, the wife of Adriel son of Barzillai from Meholah. The men of Gibeon executed them on the mountain before the Lord. So all seven of them died together at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Congregation: Then Rizpah daughter of Aiah, the mother of two of the men, spread burlap on a rock and stayed there the entire harvest season. She prevented the scavenger birds from tearing at their bodies during the day and stopped wild animals from eating them at night. When David learned what Rizpah, Saul's concubine, had done, he went to the people of Jabesh-gilead and retrieved the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan.

Narrator: (When the Philistines had killed Saul and Jonathan on Mount Gilboa, the people of Jabesh-gilead stole their bodies from the public square of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hung them.) So David obtained the bones of Saul and Jonathan, as well as the bones of the men the Gibeonites had executed. Then the king ordered that they bury

the bones in the tomb of Kish, Saul's father, at the town of Zela in the land of Benjamin. After that, God ended the famine in the land.

Narrator: Stay tuned for the continuing saga that is our story and God's story.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn - Canticle of the Turning

Canticle of the Turning



Offering

Worship Leader: We are grateful for your financial gifts; it's the only way churches are churches. Set up automatic giving by going to our website, <u>riverofhopehutchinson.org</u> and follow the directions to "give online".

Prayers of the People

Each petition will end with the words: Lord in your mercy.

You will respond: Hear our prayers.

THE FEAST

Setting the Table

As the kids help set the table, make a circle around the table and lead the congregation in the table prayer written by Martin Luther:

Let's pray: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. And let these gifts to us be blest. Blest be God who is our bread, may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

As we are gathered into one body by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us gather at the table, prepared and given for you by Christ. Taste of God's goodness and mercy.

When we come to this table, we bring all of ourselves.

We bring joy and hope, dreams and prayers, grief and doubt, memories and heartache.

God meets us here. God hears our cries and sees our scars.

With open hearts and authenticity, we gather at the table of Christ.

We remember that in the night when Jesus was betrayed by his best friends, he took bread. He blessed it and broke it and gave it to these same friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup, blessed it and gave it for all to drink saying, "This is the new covenant, the new promise, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The Lord's Prayer

Divine Source of Love and Life, Holy is your unspeakable name. May your Way of Love resound through earth, heaven in our midst. All we need to live and thrive we receive from you, Creator; forgive us when we turn away, as we forgive each other.

Keep us on the path of Wisdom, away from wicked tyranny; Spirit ever breathe through us, empower us with hope.

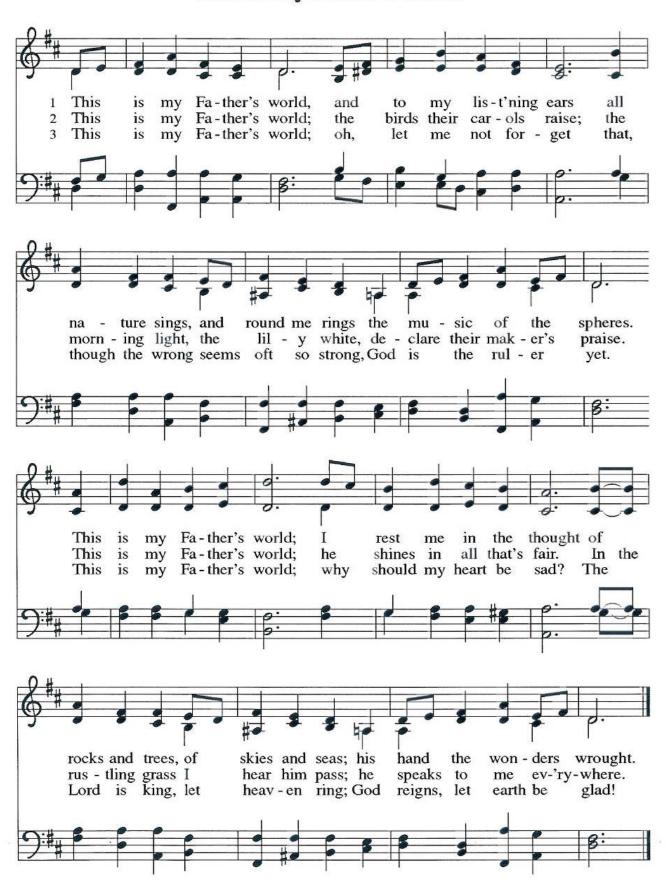
From you, through you and in you, are all things, now and always; to you be all honor and praise. Amen.

Invitation to the Meal

You are welcome to this meal. It is free and it is for you. If you hunger and thirst for grace and mercy that comes through Jesus Christ, then Christ has set this table just for you.

Communion Songs/Hymns – This Is My Fathers World

This Is My Father's World



Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901 Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

Blessing after Communion

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his peace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray, Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE SENDING

Why does our church exist? What is our purpose? We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.

Purpose Sightings

There are many opportunities to serve God and our neighbor – this is the time to lift those up!

MILESTONES!

Final Blessing

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sending Song – Nobody Fills My Heart Like Jesus

Nobody Fills My Heart Like Jesus

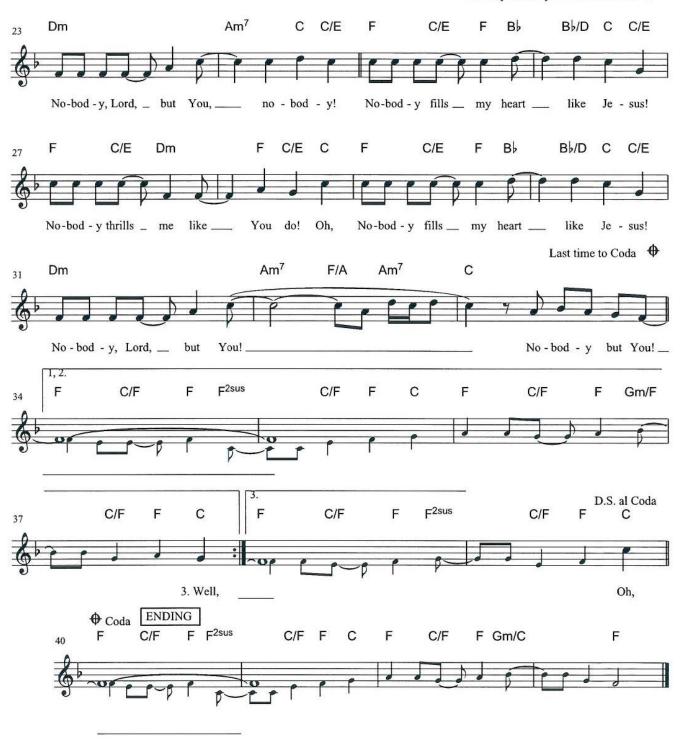
Words and Music by Dennis Jernigan VERSE = 140 F2sus C/F C/F F C/F F Gm/F like to say, __Lord, from ____ the start, Thank You for break - ing through . I am weak, _ my Lord, ___ You're strong! - ven when _ (3.) when Lov - ing me e Csus C/F F Bb/F F C C/F Dm^7 C Thank You for tear - ing my heart! ev -- 'ry chain a part! Lord, You are my __ sal - va and I'm wrong! - tion song! . my F^{2sus} F F/C C/F F C/F F C C 8 When I was lost, ____ You made way! Ev - er day ____ I'll make choice, y just C/F F Gm/F C/F C/F Bb/F F Dm⁷ 11 You turned the dark - est night _ day! You are my joy __ and Lord, _ I'd like to to lis - ten - ing fol - low - ing _____ Your voice! Be-ing with You _ I can't ___ help re -CHORUS Csus C F/C C C/E Bb Bb/D C C/E 15 that No-bod - y fills __ my heart _ like Je - sus! say For -joice! C/E Dm C/E C F C/E B Bb/D C C/E 19

No-bod - y fills __ my heart ___

like

You do! Oh,

No-bod - y thrills _ me like ____



Go in peace – Jesus is with you! Thanks be to God

Music to Send you out