

SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

IN MEMORIAM

Susan Safford

February 12, 1943–April 1, 2026

First Presbyterian Church

Tallahassee, Florida

April 10, 2026, 11:00 AM



GATHERING

Ringing of the Zimbelstern

Voluntary

Simple Gifts

Traditional Shaker Tune

Greetings

Rev. Glenn Hodges

Thanksgiving For Baptism

Opening Sentences

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
Maker of heaven and earth.

Prayer

*Hymn 836

Abide With Me

EVENTIDE

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer.

*Assurance of Pardon

Believe the gospel! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Source of all true wisdom, calm the troubled waters of our hearts, and still all other voices but your own, that we may hear and obey what you tell us in your word, through the power of your Spirit.
Amen.

First Reading

Micah 6:6–8

Peggy Wright Cleveland

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

John 14:1–6, 25–27

Debbie Gibson

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn 773

Heaven Shall Not Wait

HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT

Asterisks indicate to please rise in body or spirit. Congregational responses are in **bold print.*

Gospel Matthew 25:31–41
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Rev. Dr. Brant Copeland

*Affirmation of Faith (Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn 215 What Wondrous Love Is This WONDROUS LOVE

Eulogies Christiana Messer
Tyson, Lawson, & Kaitlin Meyer
Katherine Ignacio

Song Hallelujah Leonard Cohen

Prayers of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kindom 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 kindom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SENDING

Commendation

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all. We are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. This you ordained when you created us, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." **All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.** Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with all your saints, where there is neither pain nor sorrow nor sighing, but life everlasting. **Amen.**

Holy God, by your creative power you gave us life, and in your redeeming love you have given us new life in Christ. We commend Sue to your merciful care in the faith of Christ our Lord who died and rose again to save us, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn 840 When Peace like a River VILLE DU HAVRE

Blessing

Procession "Domine Deus" from Gloria Antonio Vivaldi

You are invited to join us in the Westminster Room (next door to the Education Building) for refreshments following the service. Please enter without forming a line, greeting the family as the opportunity arises.

836

Abide with Me

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide!
 earth's joys grow dim; its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see.
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 Heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

By blending end of day and end of life, the imagery of this well-known Victorian hymn has made it valuable for both evening services and funerals. Although the author wrote his own music for it, the present tune has been firmly associated with this text for over 150 years.

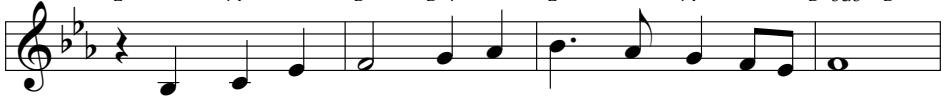
Heaven Shall Not Wait 773

Capo 1: (D) (G) (A) (A7) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
 E^b A^b B^b B^b7 E^b Cm7 Fm B^b



1 Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their pa-tience,
 2 Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their for-tunes,
 3 Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great i - de - as,
 4 Heaven shall not wait for tri - um - phant Hal - le - lu - jahs,

(D) (G) (A) (A7) (D) (G) (Asus) (A)
 E^b A^b B^b B^b7 E^b A^b B^bsus B^b



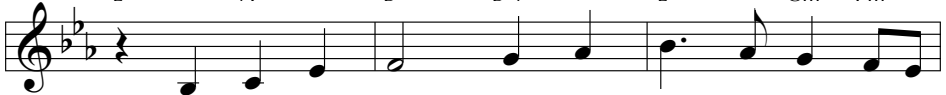
the scorned to smile, the de-spised to find a friend:
 the proud to fall, the e - lite to tend the least:
 thoughts of com - pas - sion di - vorced from cries of pain:
 when earth has passed and we reach an - oth - er shore:

(Bm7) (Em) (F#m) (Bm7) (D) (Em7) (A)
 Cm7 Fm Gm Cm7 E^b Fm7 B^b



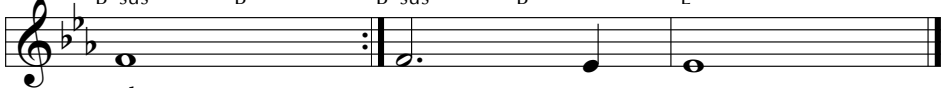
Je - sus is Lord; he has cham - pioned the un - want - ed;
 Je - sus is Lord; he has shown the mas - ter's priv - ilege:
 Je - sus is Lord; he has mar - ried word and ac - tion;
 Je - sus is Lord in our pres - ent im - per - fec - tion;

(D) (G) (A) (A7) (D) (Bm) (Em)
 E^b A^b B^b B^b7 E^b Cm Fm



in him in - jus - tice con - fronts its time - ly
 to kneel and wash ser - vants' feet be - fore they
 his cross and com - pa - ny make his pur - pose
 his power and love are for now and then for

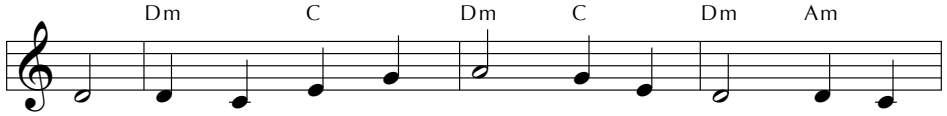
1-3	(Asus)	(A)	4	(Asus)	(A)	(D)
B ^b sus	B ^b	B ^b sus	B ^b	B ^b	E ^b	



end. ev - er - more.
 feast.
 plain.

This stirring, prophetic hymn is organized around two recurring four-syllable phrases, the first of which introduces an idealized scenario of what Dietrich Bonhoeffer would call "cheap grace," while the second announces the "costly grace" of God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ.

What Wondrous Love Is This 215



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful



bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."

840 When Peace like a River

It Is Well with My Soul

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives: O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought. My
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul;
 It is well with my soul;

This text is a remarkable expression of faith born of grief. The author, an active Presbyterian layman who had just lost four daughters in a tragic shipwreck, wrote it while sailing to Paris to meet his wife, who had survived. The tune was named for the ship that sank.

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

it is well; it is well with my soul.

The image shows a musical score for two voices, likely soprano and alto, in a minor key. The music is written on two staves. The lyrics are: "it is well; it is well with my soul." The melody is simple and repetitive, with a focus on the words "it is well". The music ends with a double bar line.