

January 10, 2010, 9:15 am—Fresh Spirit

“I see the God in you. I greet the God in you.”

Bill Wallace, New Zealand

**As you gather for worship,
please introduce yourself to those around you.
There are no strangers in God’s house.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lone Wild Bird

Text by Richard McFadyen; The Covenant Choir, Katherine Campe, director

The lone wild bird in lofty flight
Is still with you nor leaves your sight.
And I am Thine, I rest in Thee,
Great Spirit come down and rest in me.

The ends of the earth are in Your hand,
The seas dark deep and far off land.
And I am Thine, I rest in Thee,
Great Spirit come down and rest in me.

WELCOME

REFLECTION FOR PEACE

GATHERING THE PEOPLE

(from Psalm 16)

One: God our refuge, you keep us secure.

All: God who counsels us, even at night you instruct our hearts.

One: With you by our side we will stand firm.

All: You have shown us the path of life, O God.

One: You fill us with joy in your presence.

All: With glad hearts we sing praises to your name.

One: Let us worship God!

OPENING SONG (see insert)

Sing a New Song

Michael McClellan

RENEWING THE COVENANT

One: We remember the willingness of Jesus to choose a life of courage, compassion, faithfulness, and concern for the downtrodden.

**All: We reflect on the choices we have made,
and the choices which lie ahead of us.**

---Time for silent reflection---

One: We remember the willingness of Jesus to choose a committed life with a community of disciples, very different in viewpoint, background, and ability.

**All: We reflect on the choices we have made within our family and our faith community, for good or ill,
and the choices which lie ahead of us.**

---Time for silent reflection---

One: We remember the willingness of Jesus to confront the corrupt practices, the stagnant traditions, and the evil powers of his time.

All: We reflect on the choices we have made for justice and right, and the choices which lie ahead of us.

---Time for silent reflection---

One: You give us the courage, O God,
to choose life in all its fullness.

**All: To choose service rather than apathy,
freedom rather than dependence,**

fellowship rather than going it alone.

*As the faithful way comes home to us,
so the need for pardon and peace is strong within us.*

One: In the name of Jesus Christ,
receive God’s pardon, know God’s peace.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

OFFERING OUR GIFTS BACK TO GOD

OFFERTORY SONG

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

arr. Joe Cox

African-American Spiritual; Youth Choir, Brian Potts, director

(Refrain)

**Swing low, sweet chariot,
Comin' for to carry me home;
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Comin' for to carry me home.**

I looked over Jordan,
And what did I see,
Comin' for to carry me home,
A band of angels comin' after me,
Comin' for to carry me home.

(Refrain)

If you get there before I do,
Comin' for to carry me home,
Tell all my friends I'm comin' too,
Comin' for to carry me home.

(Refrain)

DOXOLOGY

We thank you God for all you have given.

Now we return a portion to you -

For all that we have, and all that we are,

We bring our gifts, and thank you God for life.

+ + +

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 22:1-19

NRSV

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.”

So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.” So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beer-sheba; and Abraham lived at Beer-sheba.

SERMON

The Sacred Journey—Steps to Faith Rev. Thomas D. York

FOCUS SONG (see insert)

I Will Have Faith In You Sarah Hart/Sam Mizell

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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, for ever. Amen.

CLOSING SONG (see insert)

Grateful

Tom Tomaszek

BLESSING THE PEOPLE

Sources for today’s liturgy: Gathering - *Psalm 16*; Renewing the Covenant - David Sparks, *Prayers to Share, Year C*.

If you feel called to serve God by researching, writing or speaking liturgy in future services, please feel free to talk with any of the worship leaders or drop a note in the offering plate.

Fresh Spirit Prayer Request cards and offering envelopes are available in the black fellowship pad folders. If you have a prayer request, concern or joy you wish to share, please fill out a card and place it in the offering bags. All concerns and joys are welcome!

