

The Journey of a 1000 Steps

Begins With One Step



"Meditation for a Beautiful Day"

By Sara Campbell

Ah, how beautiful is this day.
How crisp and clean the air.
How clear the sky.
How full of life the teeming earth.
And we are alive!

Yes, we feel the beat of our own hearts,
the pulsing of life in our veins,
the rhythm of our breathing.
We come into the silence of this time with gratitude for this day.
We come also with our needs.

Our gratitude stirs us to praise and sing our thanksgiving.
Our loneliness draws us into the company of others.
Our restlessness draws us into these moments of quiet.
Our longing for the spirit brings us before the mystery of the holy.
Our desire to heal our own wounds and the wounds of our world
brings us here to renew our strength and hope.

And we come into this space because we have gifts to share:
words of healing and encouragement for those who are burdened; songs of praise and hope;
smiles of comfort and affection;
deeds of love and kindness.

Each of us comes to dip into the well that nourishes our hungry spirits.
Each of us comes with our own cup of goodness to pour into the well.
We drink together.
May we be strengthened in our bonds of love and peace.

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING MEDITATION

God your help is persistent and everlasting.

Living and loving God, in your great love for the world,
your desire to help us became visible when you sent your Son, to be our Savior
and Lord. Your care for us is beyond our imagination. How can we come with anything other than
praise and adoration for this priceless gift of lives lived eternally with you, O
God? A gift made possible through the sacrificial love of Jesus, your Son, our
Lord and our Savior. This we pray in his name. Amen

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 121)

Leader: A warm welcome is extended to all. Especially those who are worshipping online with
First Presbyterian Jefferson City for the first time or who have returned after an absence.

People: Your virtual presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together.

Leader: We lift our eyes to the hills
From where does our help come?

People: Our help comes from God who made heaven and earth.

Leader: The HOLY ONE who will not let our feet be moved;
the One who keeps us will not slumber.
From where does our help come?

People: Our help comes from God who made heaven and earth.

Leader: From where does our help come?

**People: Our help comes from God who made heaven and earth.
With this sure and certain knowledge of God's abiding help and love let us
worship!**

GATHERING SONG Hymn #321 *"The Church's One Foundation"*

**The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heaven he came
and sought her
to be his holy bride.
With his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**

**Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,**

and to one hope she presses,
 with every grace endued.
 Though with a scornful wonder
 this world sees her oppressed,
 by schisms rent asunder,
 by heresies distressed,
 Yet saints their watch are keeping;
 their cry goes up: "How long?"
 And soon the night of weeping
 shall be the morn of song.
 Mid toil and tribulation,
 and tumult of her war,
 she waits the consummation
 of peace forevermore:
 Till with the vision glorious
 her longing eyes are blest,
 and the great church victorious
 shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union
 with God, the Three in One,
 and mystic sweet communion
 with those whose rest is won:
 O happy ones and holy!
 Lord, give us grace that we,
 like them, the meek and lowly,
 may live eternally.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Abraham obviously had no problem believing that God would help him and his family as they journeyed forth into the unknown; and Jesus was able to journey towards Jerusalem believing that God would be his strong help and guide on the way. We confess together our readiness to affirm our belief in God's guidance.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Break through our resistance and our fear O God, with your perfect and all-reaching love; so that we may hear and respond to your call, your promises, your leadership in our lives with heightened enthusiasm and deepened faith. Gracious and loving God, forgive our lack of trust in you; help us when we hesitate, and strengthen us where we are weak. Blow your Spirit afresh into our hearts and minds so that we have courage to follow Jesus wherever he leads us. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3: 17)

Leader: And so I declare to you: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:17-23

PSALM: 116:1-4, 12-19

SPECIAL MUSIC

"I Give You My Heart"

Reuben Morgan

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

SERMON:

"What's Love Got to Do With it?"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *(from a Brief Statement of Faith 23-32)*

**God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.
We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.**

CALL TO SERVE

DOXOLOGY

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (in unison)

God of grace and truth, we offer these gifts and our lives in response to your great gift of Jesus - sign of your everlasting love for all people. Breathe your Spirit into us and empower us to witness to that great love wherever we go and through all we say and do in Jesus' name. We are your RESURRECTED PEOPLE. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING PRAISE

HYMN #306

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes,
our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes;
our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love
and friendship reign
through all eternity.

BENEDICTION:

One: The kingdom of love is coming because:

**All: Somewhere someone is kind when others are unkind,
somewhere someone shares with another in need,
somewhere someone refuses to hate, while others hate,
somewhere someone is patient - and waits in love,
somewhere someone returns good for evil,
somewhere someone serves another, in love,
somewhere someone is calm in a storm,
somewhere someone is loving everybody.**

ONE: Is that someone you?

All: Is that someone me?

THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE

"The Gift of Love"

Hal Hopson