

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. June Boutwell, Senior Pastor
Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

February 21, 2021 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday of Lent

*Where the past and the future with Jesus Christ are celebrated
so the present can be lived abundantly.*

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to worship all those joining us on-line and those in the sanctuary. It is good to gather as the body of Christ.

The Altar flowers are placed in memory of Chester H. Donner, by his family.

A Time of Gathering

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Connie Durst, Lector

Leader: And now may we prepare our hearts and minds for worship as we are gathered in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES AND THE ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

Nolan Wig, Acolyte

PRELUDE "Children of the Heavenly Father" arr. Lloyd Larson (CCLI#2939315)

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Psalm 25:8-10

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 25:1-10)

Connie Durst, Lector

Leader: We come, trusting in God's mercy and love, longing to know and to learn more about God's ways.

People: We come, to be guided in the ways of God's truth—to experience the joy of God's salvation.

Leader: We come, at the beginning of our Lenten journey, aware of God's steadfast love helping us to overcome the trials and temptations which can descend on us at any time.

People: Lead us, O God, to do what is right in your eyes and teach us to follow the humble way of Christ, your beloved Son, our crucified and risen Lord.

OPENING HYMN “Just as I Am” (bulletin page 5)

A Time of Prayer

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the rainbow, you made a covenant with all creatures, promising life and hope. God of pathways, you show us how we should walk. Yet we forget our connection with one another and think that we are the center of the universe. We wander from your paths of truth into paths of deceit and pride. As you hear our prayers, forgive us and lead us back into the arms of your love.

A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION AND PRAYER

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE

A SONG OF ASSURANCE “Create in Me a Clean Heart”
(sing straight through-do not repeat)

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart. O God, and re-new a right spir-it with - in me. Cre - Cast me not a - way from Your pre-sence, O Lord, and take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion, and re-new a right spir-it with-in me." The score includes a repeat sign with first and second endings for the phrase "Cre - Cast me not a - way from Your".

WORDS: Based on Psalm 51:10-12
MUSIC: Unknown
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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH 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 forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

**I need you every hour, in faith or fear,
Temptations lose their power when you are near.
I need you, how I need you! Every hour I need you;
O bless me now, my Savior; I come to you.**

Dwelling in the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 9:8-17 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

SPECIAL MUSIC

“As The Deer”

Martin J. Nystrom (CCLI#1431)

Lori Seinar-Roknick, soloist

SERMON

The Rainbow Bridge

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

May we give generously on behalf of the needs of the church and the world. You may drop off your offering in the office, mail your gift, use a bank bill pay service or use the “give” button

on the website. Thank you for your continued support of Zion's ministries.

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above you heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

LITURGY OF DIMINISHING LIGHTS (Based on a service written by Alexander H. Wales)

During Lent, we remember the events that led Jesus to his crucifixion. He had come into the world to bring hope and light, but at every turn there were those who sought to extinguish that light. Reflecting our Christmas Eve service, the circle of gathering darkness created by the candles and the crown of thorns serves as a constant reminder of the darkness of our sin and the hope of the resurrection.

RESPONSE IN SONG Savior, When in Tears and Dust (verse 1 only) (bulletin page 6)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE "Guide Me, O thou Great Jehovah" arr. Penny Rodriguez (CCLI#7025484)

MEDITATION: Steve Maraboli

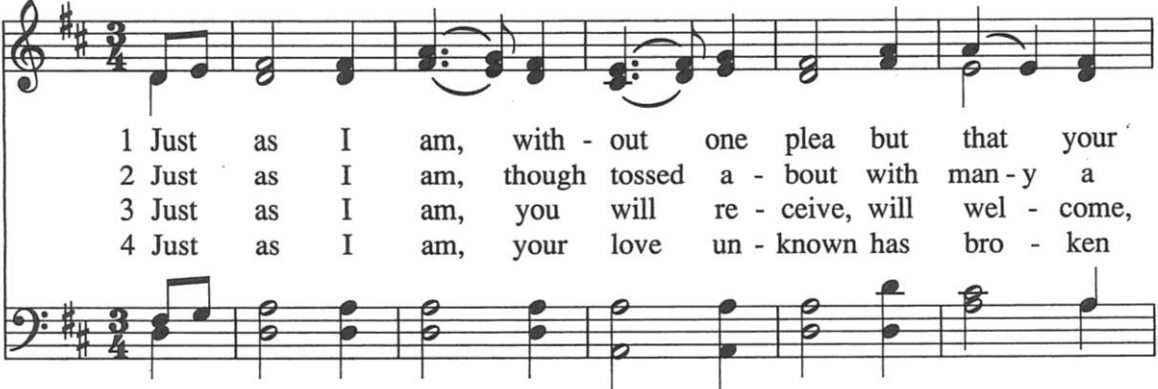
You don't realize it at the time, but some of life's roadblocks, detours, and rejections are answered prayers. Each day carries in the blessings of God and you have unlimited access to all it offers.

Just as I Am

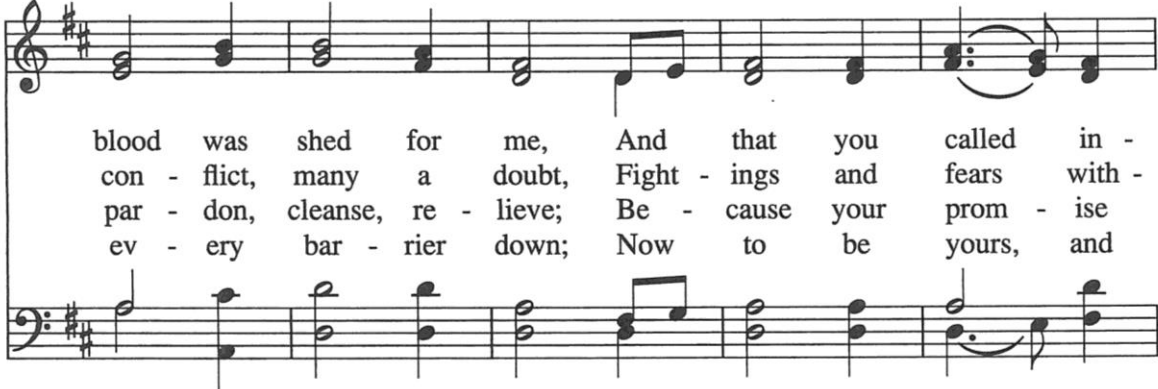
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Charlotte Elliott, 1836; alt.

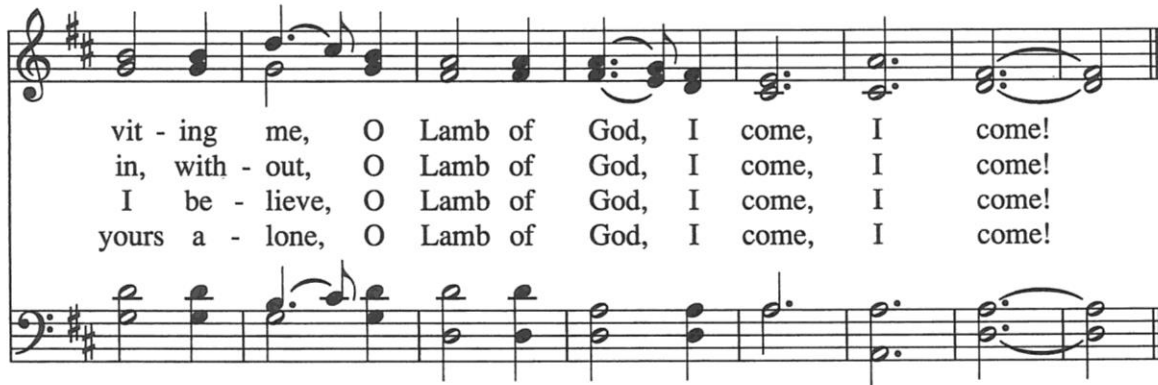
John 6:37; Eph. 2:14



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that your
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
 3 Just as I am, you will re - ceive, will wel - come,
 4 Just as I am, your love un - known has bro - ken



blood was shed for me, And that you called in -
 con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause your prom - ise
 ev - ery bar - rier down; Now to be yours, and



vit - ing me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 yours a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

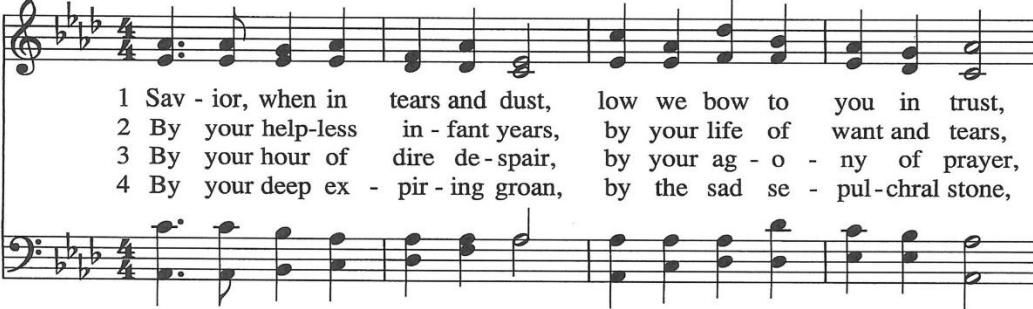
This text appeared in Charlotte Elliott's Invalid's Hymn Book, published in England in 1836. Disabled at age thirty, she continued a career of writing and editing. This hymn has been translated into many languages.

Tune: WOODWORTH L.M.
 William B. Bradbury, 1849

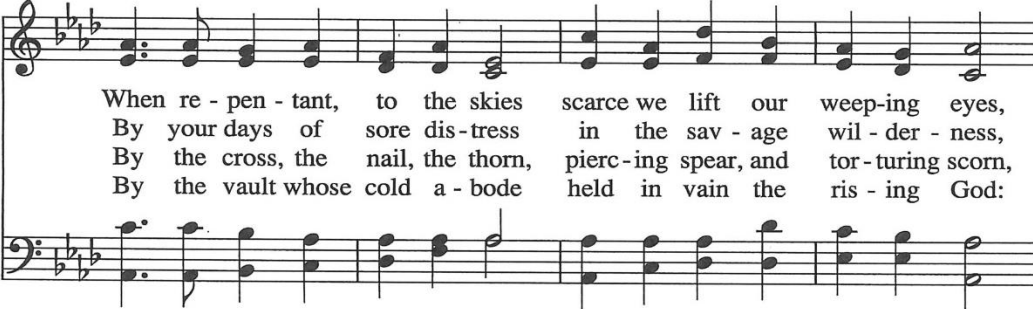
ASH WEDNESDAY

Savior, When in Tears and Dust

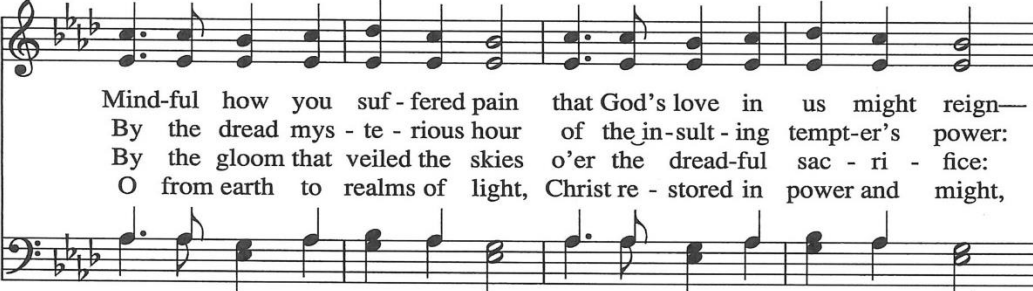
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Robert Grant, 1815; alt.


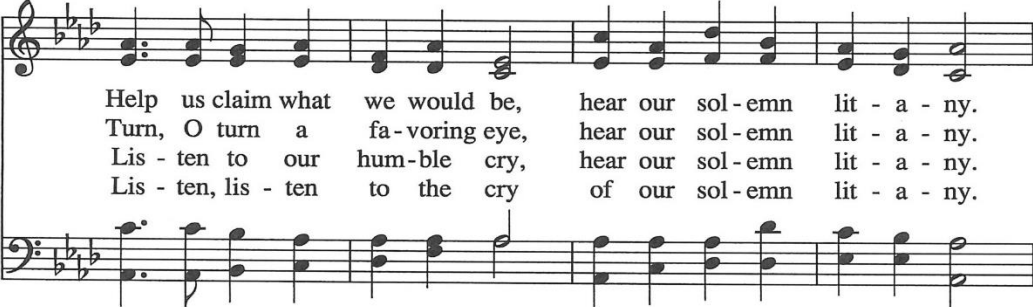
1 Sav - ior, when in tears and dust, low we bow to you in trust,
 2 By your help-less in - fant years, by your life of want and tears,
 3 By your hour of dire de - spair, by your ag - o - ny of prayer,
 4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, by the sad se - pul - chral stone,



When re - pen - tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes,
 By your days of sore dis - tress in the sav - age wil - der - ness,
 By the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn,
 By the vault whose cold a - bode held in vain the ris - ing God:



Mind - ful how you suf - fered pain that God's love in us might reign—
 By the dread mys - te - rious hour of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's power:
 By the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice:
 O from earth to realms of light, Christ re - stored in power and might,



Help us claim what we would be, hear our sol - emn lit - a - ny.
 Turn, O turn a fa - voring eye, hear our sol - emn lit - a - ny.
 Lis - ten to our hum - ble cry, hear our sol - emn lit - a - ny.
 Lis - ten, lis - ten to the cry of our sol - emn lit - a - ny.

Robert Grant—English lawyer, member of Parliament, advocate general, humanitarian, and author of a number of significant hymns—was born in India. He returned near the end of his life to become governor of Bombay.

Tune: SPANISH HYMN 7.7.7.7.D.
 Traditional melody
 Arr. Benjamin Carr, 1824