



**FIFTH**  
**SUNDAY**  
**IN LENT**  
**APRIL 3, 2022**



**FIRST**  
**PRESBYTERIAN**  
**CHURCH**  
**COVINGTON, GA**

# Gathering As God's Beloved People

## Gathering Music

*Blessed Jesus, At Thy Word*  
*Preludio*  
*More Love to Thee, O Christ*

J. S. Bach  
Derek Healey  
Joshua Evanovich

## Prelude

*Holy Ghost, with Light Divine Shine Upon this Heart of Mine*

Healey Willan

## Chiming of the Hour

## Welcome and Announcements

### ✦ Call to Worship

May we find courage here—

**courage to follow our call, courage to live out our faith.**

May we find hope here—

**hope for a better world, hope that refuses to let us go.**

May we find truth here—

**truth that lives in sacred community, truth that lives in ancient stories.**

May we find all that we seek.

**And in our seeking, may we know God. Amen.**

### ✦ Hymn 630

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

CRUSADER'S HYMN

### ✦ Call to Confession

### ✦ Silent Individual Confession

### ✦ Community Confession

Jesus of Nazareth,

**we admit that often we tuck our faith into our pockets, hiding in a place of comfort rather than proudly declaring: yes we are Christian, yes we believe, yes this faith has changed me. We are so afraid of offending others or embarrassing ourselves that we have established rules: no faith at the dinner table, no faith in politics, no faith with strangers. Forgive us for whispering when we could be singing. Forgive us for staying quiet when we could be part of rewriting the narrative. We want to be brave. We want to pour out perfume over your feet. These things we pray, amen.**

### ✦ Hymn 551

*Lord, Have Mercy*

LAND OF REST

**Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### ✦ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Family of faith, hear this good news:

Even in our silence, **God loves us.**

Even in our fear or shame, **God chooses us.**

Even when we sin, **God wraps us in grace.**

You are free—**to be bold, to be brazen, to be exactly who God called you to be.**

Church, we are forgiven!  
**We are free to try again.**

## Reflecting on the Artistic Interpretation of the Scripture



### Proclaiming the Word

#### Wondering with God's Children

**Anthem**

*Simple Gifts*

Traditional Shaker melody  
Arr. Victor Labenske

#### Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

**Scripture Reading**

John 12:1-8

**Message**

*Full to the Brim... Brazen Acts of Beauty*

Seminarian Alisa Castilla

**Silent Reflection**



### Responding to the Word

✦ **Hymn 201**

*A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar*

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

✦ **Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in beauty—  
beauty pulled into being by our Creator,  
beauty that catches our breath,  
beauty that turns us toward awe.  
I believe in courage—  
courage to believe,  
courage to stand up for the people we love,  
courage to love without hesitation.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit  
who prays for us when we cannot,  
who is brave for us when we are not.  
I believe in Jesus Christ  
who stood up for Mary,  
who quieted the voice of critique,  
who welcomed every bid for relationship.  
I believe in God.  
I believe in God who believes in us.  
Amen.

## 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, forever. Amen.**

## Offering Our Gifts

### Offertory

*How Great Thou Art*  
Jodi Atkins, soprano; Alicia Taylor, alto

Arr. Lloyd Larson

### ✦ Response 629

*Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

ST AGNES

***Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be.  
Jesus, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.***

## Poetry and Prayer

Lessons from a Winter Rose

I am dumbfounded  
by the sheer persistence  
of a winter rose  
that blooms  
on the coldest of days—  
when the rest of the world  
has turned dim and gray,  
when the rest of the world is sleeping.  
The audacity  
to stand so tall,  
to decorate the world with color,  
to be the only one  
brave enough  
to bloom.

### **I wonder what that's like.**

Maybe it's similar  
to pouring perfume  
on the feet of Jesus—  
shocking and beautiful  
at the same time.

On winter morning walks  
I pass a bed of roses.  
I dare not pick one.

### **Instead I say thank you.**

**Thank you for the beauty.  
Thank you for the reminder.  
Thank you for the bloom.  
And I walk home and pray—  
God, if you can,  
make me that brave.**

# Being the Church in the World

## ✦ **Sending Hymn 543**

*God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

GREEN TYLER

***God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to move my voice;  
God, be the strength to now uphold me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ surround me.***

***Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to light my way,  
And from beneath, above and all ways: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.***

## ✦ **Charge and Benediction**

### **Postlude**

*Allegro*

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy



## Worship Notes

The instrumental postlude is an integral part of the act of worship, offered to assist our prayer and contemplation, to kindle our imaginations, to reflect on words just spoken, and to connect us to God; therefore, we ask that you remain seated until the postlude has concluded.

Musical offerings are an act of worship. If you wish to express thanks to God at the conclusion of a musical offering, feel free to offer a hearty "Amen," a Biblical way of saying "so be it!" and affirming spiritual gifts.

### **Friendship Registers**

There are Friendship Registers in each pew. We ask that all members and visitors sign in each week. If you are a visitor or interested in church membership, signing in helps us with a way to contact you.

### **Nursery for Children**

Nursery care is available for children newborn through first grade. Our nursery is located on the lower level. Please ask an usher to direct you. Children are also welcome to wiggle and giggle in the pew.

### **Worship Bags for Children**

The bags are labeled with children's name tags clipped to their bag, and they are invited to use the same bag each time they come to worship. For our visitors and newcomers, we have bags labeled "Child of God." The bags are available in the narthex.

### **Serving Today**

Tech Team | Brad Phillips, Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins

Acolyte | Kately Lane

Usher Chair | Billy Fortson



## Worship Music Notes

### **Fairest Lord Jesus**

This hymn came from Roman Catholic Jesuits in Germany and originally had six verses. It first appeared in 1677 in a Jesuit hymnbook titled Munster Gesangbuch, but the text of the hymn was in existence at least 15 years earlier, for it has been found in a manuscript dating back to 1662. Yet the origin of the words remains a mystery.



Who translated it into English? That, too, is largely a mystery. The first three verses are the work of an anonymous translator. The fourth verse was by Joseph A. Sciss, and it first appeared in a Lutheran Sunday School book in 1873. How appropriate that no human author draws attention from the great theme of this song. There's no source to distract from the subject, no story to detract from the Savior.

This hymn emphasizes the beauty and wonder of Christ, and it alludes to His dual nature, that He was both human and divine, God made flesh, the God-Man: O Thou of God and man the Son ...Son of God and Son of Man ...

It brings to mind one of the greatest observations ever made about Christ, uttered by the "Golden-mouthed" preacher of Antioch, John Chrysostom, in a fourth-century sermon: "I do not think of Christ as God alone, or man alone, but both together. For I know He was hungry, and I know that with five loaves He fed five thousand. I know He was thirsty, and I know that He turned the water into wine. I know He was carried in a ship, and I know that He walked on the sea. I know that He died, and I know that He raised the dead. I know that He was set before Pilate, and I know that He sits with the Father on His throne. I know that He was worshiped by angels, and I know that He was stoned by the Jews. And truly some of these I ascribe to the human, and others to the divine nature. For by reason of this, He is said to have been both God and man."

## **Lord, Have Mercy**

This setting of the Kyrie was made for *Worship III* by Richard Proulx (1984). Proulx (b. 1937) is an active composer and musician. He served as consultant to the Standing Committee on Church Music of the Episcopal Church. He served as the director of music at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Chicago until his passing in 2010.

## **A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar**

Brian Wren (b. Romford, Essex, England, 1936) is a major British figure in the revival of contemporary hymn writing. He studied French literature at New College and theology at Mansfield College in Oxford, England. Ordained in 1965, he was pastor of the Congregational Church (now United Reformed) in Hockley and Hawkwell, Essex, from 1965 to 1970. He worked for the British Council of Churches and several other organizations involved in fighting poverty and promoting peace and justice. This work resulted in his writing of *Education for Justice* (1977) and *Patriotism and Peace* (1983). With a ministry throughout the English-speaking world, Wren now resides in the United States where he is active as a freelance lecturer, preacher, and full-time hymn writer.

## **Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee**

When Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153), a sickly youth in Dijon, France, was unable to fulfill military service, he became a monk. So successful was he that he eventually founded the famous monastery in nearby Clairvaux; in time almost 170 other monasteries sprang from Bernard's leadership. He became the most powerful preacher of his era, and is remembered as a pious man, a deeply contemplative mystic, the "honey-tongued doctor." Martin Luther called Bernard "the best monk that ever lived, whom I admire beyond all the rest put together." He wasn't a perfect man, as seen in his support for the Second Crusade to liberate the Holy Land from Muslim control, but for 800 years his words have been read and sung, and his good work has continued.

If you've never read Bernard, here are some excerpts from his writings and sermons:

*How do we know that Christ has really overcome death? Precisely in that he, who did not deserve it, underwent it ... but what kind of justice is this, you may say, that the innocent should die for the guilty? It is not justice, but mercy.*

*I was made a sinner by deriving my being from Adam; I am made righteous by being washed in the blood of Christ.*

*You will never have real mercy for the failings of another until you know and realize that you have the same failings in your soul.*

*Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your kindness in uniting us to the church you so dearly love, not merely that we may be endowed with the gift of faith, but that, like brides, we may be one*

*with you ... beholding with unveiled faces that glory which is yours in union with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.*

*You wish me to tell you why and how God should be loved. My answer is that God Himself is the reason He is to be loved.*

Several well-known hymns are attributed to St. Bernard: "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee," "O Sacred Head Now Wounded," and a lesser-known hymn entitled "Open Wide are Thine Hands," the second verse of which says: Lord, I am sad and poor, but boundless is Thy grace; Give me the soul transforming joy for which I seek Thy face.

## God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a lorica (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.



## Worship Art

This Sunday's worship art is an acrylic painting on raw canvas with digital drawing inspired by John 12:1-8 titled "Brazen Beauty" by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

In the chapter just before this, Lazarus dies and Jesus weeps. But after being laid in the tomb, Lazarus is raised and made well. This act solidifies for the chief priests and Pharisees that Jesus is a dangerous threat. In response, they order for his arrest and plot how they will kill him. Jesus retreats from public ministry, hiding out in the wilderness in Ephraim. As the Passover nears, people begin to wonder: "Will Jesus be here?"

Despite the threats mounting, Jesus does return. On his way to Jerusalem, he stops in Bethany, seeking refuge and comfort in the home of his friends. Martha cooks a feast, and Lazarus—healthy and alive— joins him at the table. In resistance to death, as an act of extravagant love, Mary anoints Jesus with a fragrance that fills the whole room. Her actions could appear impulsive, but if you were saying your last goodbye to someone you loved, how would you act?

This image began as a painting on raw canvas. With fluid strokes of paint, I allowed the colors to run and bleed into each other. As I drew Mary kneeling, I omitted the other details the scene, removing Jesus' feet, the other guests, the table full of food. I wanted to focus on Mary's brazen act of pouring out the expensive perfume, a commodity valued at a year's worth of wages. The luxurious liquid is expansive, flowing out toward us as the viewer. It bleeds into the red, foreshadowing the blood Jesus will soon shed. The vessel she holds is lined with gold, a reference to the ancient Japanese practice of Kintsugi, of repairing broken pottery with gold lacquer. The art of Kintsugi embellishes the cracks and transforms a shattered vessel into a new object of beauty. In this embodied act of worship, Mary is practicing Kintsugi—boldly celebrating the beauty of life even as death approaches.



—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

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"Brazen Beauty" by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | Full to the Brim graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Original photography by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014

770.786.7321 [fpccov.org](http://fpccov.org)

### Want to Get Involved?

Reach out to become a more involved member of the church! We always have something happening that we would love for you to be a part of. You could be an integrated member of our church by volunteering with our witness team, becoming an usher, joining a book club, singing in the choir or any number of activities.

Reach out to the office and we'll point you in the right direction!

Email: [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org) or call: 770-786-7321

### Deacons

Day Kennon (2022)  
 Eleanor Scarborough (2023)  
 Darcel Tabb (2024)  
 Alice Walker (2022)

### Mission Statement

Covington First Presbyterian Church is a Christian community existing to glorify God by welcoming all of God's children. We celebrate through serving, teaching, praying, eating, crying, singing, and dancing with the Holy Spirit. As works in progress, we seek to respond to God's presence in our church, lives, and community.

### Session

**Class of 2022**  
 Aubrey Evans  
 John McCarthy  
 Stephanie Scarborough  
 Trista Hooten Wilson

**Class of 2023**  
 Stan Hall  
 Louly Hay Kapp  
 Ed Perkerson  
 Bob Tabb

**Class of 2024**  
 Billy Fortson  
 Pat Harper  
 Brad Phillips  
 Curtis Watson

### First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane  
 Alisia Castilla  
 Alicia Taylor

*Senior Pastor*  
*Seminary Intern*  
*Director of Music &*  
*Worship Arts*

*Caring for Our Children*  
*in the Nursery*

Alice Walker

CAGO, AAGO

Danielle Schubert  
 Beverley Beasley  
 Amiah Williams  
 Ian Rein  
 Kennedy Lynn

Catherine Laseter

*Organist/Ambassador Choir*  
*Director of*  
*Communications & Operations*

Peni Kehoe

*Church Administrator*



**Sunday School 9:45am**

**Children**

Sunday School Room downstairs

Teachers: Rotation Model

Interested in teaching?

Email [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)

**Youth**

Meeting at Bread and Butter

Teachers: Pam and Jim Stillerman

**Adult**

Foundations Class, downstairs

**Sunday, April 3 Fifth Sunday in Lent**

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

12:00pm Party for Peni

7:00pm LAST Jammies & Jesus

**Monday, April 4**

Neeley working remotely

8:00am Lenten Poetry and Prayer

**Tuesday, April 5**

Neeley working remotely

10:00am Elizabeth Ann Circle

10:30am Martha Circle

2:15pm Church Office Staff Meeting

5:00pm Personnel Meeting

6:00pm "Help, Thanks, Wow" Book Club

**Wednesday, April 6**

Neeley working remotely

10:00am Coffee and Conversation

4:00pm Joyful Noise Music Rehearsal

6:00pm Gospel According to Ted Lasso

6:00pm Carillon Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, April 7**

Neeley working remotely

**Sunday, April 10 Palm Sunday**

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

12:00pm APNC Congregational Meeting

*Holy Week at FPC*



*Palm Sunday*

April 10, 11:00 am, Sanctuary\*

Traditional worship with Children's Palm Parade



*Maunder Thursday*

April 14, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary\*

This service commemorates the final hours of the Lord's life. Communion will be celebrated.



*Good Friday*

April 15, 12:00 pm, Sanctuary

Join us for a time of worship, prayer, and reflection.



*Flowering of the Cross*

Easter weekend, Front Lawn

You are invited to help us decorate our cross with flowers, representing the transition from Jesus's death to resurrection.



*Easter Sunday*

Sunrise Service, 6:30 am, Outdoors

Traditional Service, 11:00 am, Sanctuary\*

\*Childcare is available during this service.



**Easter Egg Hunt**

SATURDAY, APRIL 16 10 AM  
CHURCH PLAYGROUND

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

### Prayer Requests

All prayer requests should be sent to:  
[catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)

Requests will be removed after three weeks if not updated. Please specify if you want the request in the bulletin or for pastors only, or only the confidential prayer circle.

### Ukraine

Looking for a way to give? Donate to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Funds are being used for emergency humanitarian aid such as food items, shelter, medicines, diapers, hygiene items, and more.

To donate, text PDAUKR to 41444 or use this link for their website:

<https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000156/>

You may also write a check out to FPC with "Ukraine" in the memo line and we will donate it to PDA for you.

You are invited to  
**"Text to Give"**

your offering:

Text FPCCOV to: 73256

Or use this link online:

<https://onrealm.org/>

[FirstPresbyterianChurchCov/give/FPCCOVtext](https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyterianChurchCov/give/FPCCOVtext)

### Basket for Teacher Treats for Fairview Elementary

There will be a red basket for collecting treats for teachers in the narthex each week. Place your prepackaged treats in the basket by noon on Thursdays for delivery to the teachers on Fridays.



### Illness

- ✦ Barbara Phillips, friend of Alice Walker - cancer
- ✦ Alton Cochran - colon cancer surgery
- ✦ Bobby Cocker, nephew of Judy Davis - colon cancer surgery
- ✦ Danny Vining - eye surgery
- ✦ Ed Walton, boss of Brad Phillips - back surgery
- ✦ Joe Burckel, nephew of Danny and Beth Vining - brain cancer
- ✦ Kim Bailey, family of Bernice and Betty Bailey
- ✦ Beverly Beasley, friend of Jean Elder - caring for husband who has leukemia
- ✦ Anne Cranford - breast cancer
- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff MacKenzie - kidney problems
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julia MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Cathy Martin, sister-in-law of Chris Martin - breast cancer
- ✦ Melissa, friend of the congregation - cancer
- ✦ Karen Moss - breast cancer
- ✦ Saba Tanner, friend of Warren and Jeanie Liem - cancer
- ✦ Bobbie Vining, sister-in-law of Danny and Beth Vining - recovering from back surgery

✦ Blair Weaver - health issues

✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

### Celebrations

- ✦ We congratulate Kendall Hawley on being selected as a Governor's Honors Finalist.
- ✦ We celebrate Jim and Lynda Patrick on the birth of their great-grandchild Brynleigh Rose Davis to parents Tim and Sarah Davis.

### Condolences

- ✦ Our prayers are with Stephanie Fortson and her family as they grieve the passing of her sister, Elizabeth Alford.

### Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Penny Blakeney - home
- ✦ Julia Brubaker - Benton House
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Merryvale
- ✦ Guy McGiboney - Merryvale
- ✦ Travis Moss - Westbury, Conyers
- ✦ Betty Robinson - Merryvale
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

### Military Service

- ✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines
- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy

### APNC Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting to be held at the conclusion of the worship service on Sunday, April 10th, for the purpose of receiving a report from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) regarding a candidate to be called to serve as the next associate pastor here at FPC Covington. All members are asked to stay, hear their report, and vote on the proposed pastoral candidate.

### Want to donate for a great Easter Egg Hunt?

We need regular size empty plastic eggs and bags of Easter candies with no chocolate, nuts, or hard candy; we suggest Starburst and Skittles. Drop off outside Neeley's office. Then join us on Wednesday the 13th at 10:00am for an egg stuffing party in the Fellowship Hall!

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Rul - er of the

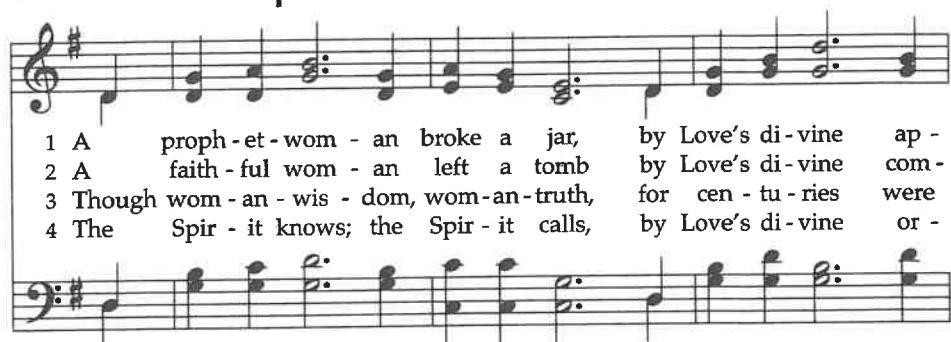
na - ture, O thou of God to earth come  
 wood - lands, robed in the bloom - ing garb of  
 moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry  
 na - tions, Son of God and Son of

down, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I  
 spring. Je - sus is fair - er; Je - sus is  
 host. Je - sus shines bright - er; Je - sus shines  
 Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

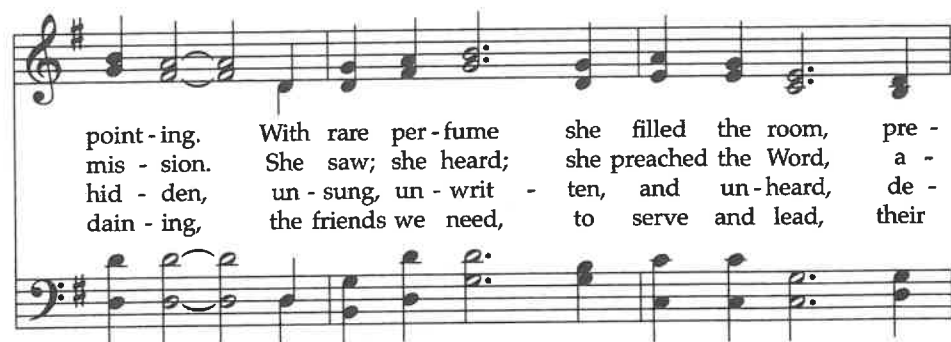
hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.  
 pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.  
 pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.  
 ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Franz Liszt used this melody for a "Crusaders' March" in an oratorio, but this hymn had nothing to do with the Crusades. No record of the German text exists before the middle of the 17th century or of the Silesian folk melody before the first half of the 19th century.

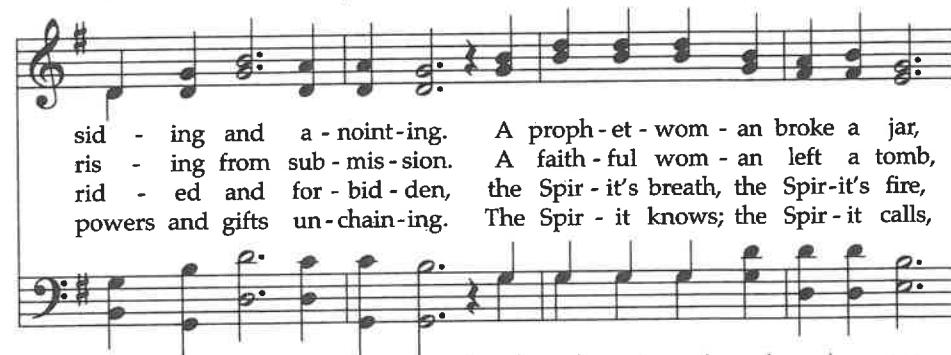
## 201 A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar



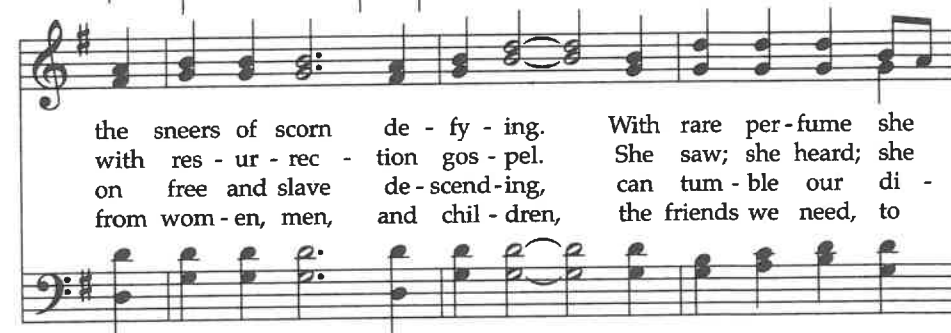
1 A proph-et-wom-an broke a jar, by Love's di-vine ap-  
 2 A faith-ful wom-an left a tomb by Love's di-vine com-  
 3 Though wom-an-wis-dom, wom-an-truth, for cen-tu-ries were  
 4 The Spir-it knows; the Spir-it calls, by Love's di-vine or-



point-ing. With rare per-fume she filled the room, pre-  
 mis-sion. She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, a-  
 hid-den, un-sung, un-writ-ten, and un-heard, de-  
 dain-ing, the friends we need, to serve and lead, their



sid-ing and a-noint-ing. A proph-et-wom-an broke a jar,  
 ris-ing from sub-mis-sion. A faith-ful wom-an left a tomb,  
 rid-ed and for-bid-den, the Spir-it's breath, the Spir-it's fire,  
 powers and gifts un-chain-ing. The Spir-it knows; the Spir-it calls,



the sneers of scorn de-fy-ing. With rare per-fume she  
 with res-ur-rec-tion gos-pel. She saw; she heard; she  
 on free and slave de-scend-ing, can tum-ble our di-  
 from wom-en, men, and chil-dren, the friends we need, to

This text seeks to reverse the neglected witness of biblical women by celebrating the woman who washed Jesus' feet (unnamed in Matthew 26:6-13/Mark 14:3-9/Luke 7:36-50; Mary of Bethany in John 12:1-8) and Mary Magdalene (John 20:1-18; Matthew 28:1-10/Mark 16:1-7/Luke 24:10).

filled the room, pre - par - ing Christ for dy - ing.  
preached the Word, a - pos - tle to a - pos - tles.  
vid - ing walls, our shame and sad - ness mend - ing.  
serve and lead. Re - joice, and make them wel - come!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: "filled the room, pre - par - ing Christ for dy - ing. preached the Word, a - pos - tle to a - pos - tles. vid - ing walls, our shame and sad - ness mend - ing. serve and lead. Re - joice, and make them wel - come!"