

**February 21, 2021 \* Spirit of Hope United Methodist Church  
First Sunday in Lent**

*We Gather – at a Distance*

**GREETING & GATHERING MUSIC**

*We Are God's People*  
Jerry Rubino

Brahms/arr. Bock

We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,  
born of the Spirit, established by the Word.  
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in Christ we stand;  
O let us live transparently and walk heart to heart and hand in hand!

**WELCOME & TIME OF SINGING**

Jeff Hansen

**We Are Called**

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God!

**Chorus**

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly,  
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God!

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless, so all hatred and blindness will be no more

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love!

**Be My Home**

Be my Savior, be my heart's delight. Be my vision, be my guiding light.  
Storms may press against me threaten to prevail.  
Be my refuge, be my shelter from the storm. Be my love that keeps me warm,  
Be my Savior be my light, be my home.

**On Eagle's Wings**

And God will raise us up on eagles' wings. Bear us on the breath of dawn.  
Make us to shine like the sun. And hold us in the palm of His hand.

**We Are One in Christ Jesus**

We are one in Christ Jesus, all one body, all one spirit, all together.  
We are one in Christ Jesus, all one body, all one spirit, all together.  
We share one God, one mighty Lord, one abiding faith, one binding love,  
One single baptism, one Holy Comforter, the Holy Spirit, uniting all.

## OPENING CONVERSATION

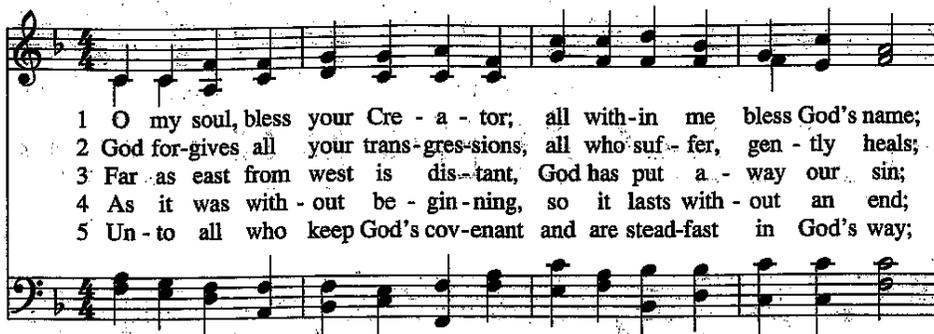
With God as our home,  
The place we become one,  
We're lifted out of our divisions,  
Our socially-distanced ruts,  
And called into a world that cries out  
For people who are given to justice,  
To loving kindness, and to humbly hanging out  
- with everyone - at home!

## A HYMN

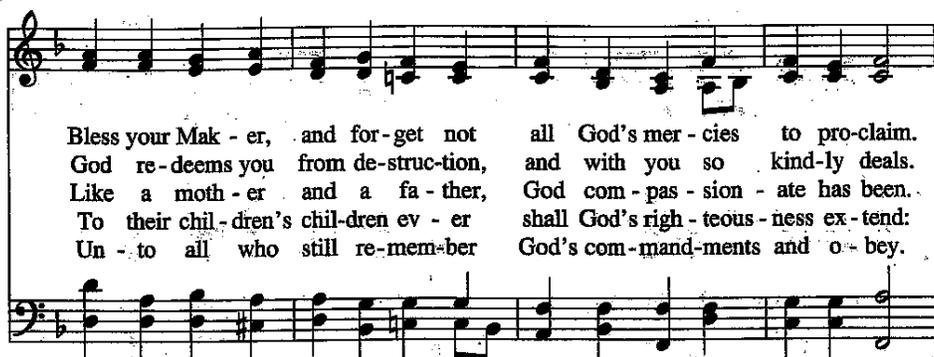
### O My Soul, Bless Your Creator

Anon.  
United Presbyterian Book of Psalms, 1871; alt.

Ps. 103



1 O my soul, bless your Cre - a - tor; all with-in me bless God's name;  
2 God for-gives all your trans-gres-sions; all who suf-fer, gen - tly heals;  
3 Far as east from west is dis-tant, God has put a - way our sin;  
4 As it was with - out be - gin-ning, so it lasts with - out an end;  
5 Un - to all who keep God's cov-enant and are stead-fast in God's way;



Bless your Mak - er, and for-get not all God's mer - cies to pro-claim.  
God re-deems you from de-struc-tion, and with you so kind-ly deals.  
Like a moth - er and a fa - ther, God com - pas - sion - ate has been.  
To their chil - dren's chil-dren ev - er shall God's righ - teous - ness ex - tend:  
Un - to all who still re-mem-ber God's com-mand-ments and o - bey.

*Psalm 103, a beautiful psalm of thanksgiving for God's forgiveness and steadfast love, is summed up in the lines of this hymn. The author of the paraphrase is unknown.*

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.  
Attrib. to Christian F. Witt  
Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

New Century Hymnal  
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## A PRAYER

We do bless and thank you, God,  
Our Maker and Liberator, our Challenger and Healer, our Welcome Home and our Sending Out to make the world as you hope it might become. You have hopes for us too. That's why we're here. Before we're sent out, we're called in, to become at home in you; to become intimate with your ways, wrapped up in and filled with your Spirit, relieved of our of our schemes and weapons, burdens and defenses. That's a lot to ask, God. A lot to hope for with the likes of us! But, aren't you are the Original Eternal Optimist, thankfully, in Christ?! Amen.

*We Lean in, Listen, Engage*

**SHARING PEACE & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TIME & A STORY WITH THE CHILDREN:** As we read the story, “Jesus Goes to the Desert”, listen for the questions Jesus has, and the feelings he experiences.  
When we have questions for God, it’s good to find a quiet place, ask, wait, listen.  
Do you wonder what God has in mind for you? What feelings come with that?

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *Grow in Grace* Malcolm Archer

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Isaiah 64:1-4  
Mark 1:9-15

For the word of God, in scripture, within, among us, and beyond us  
**Thanks be to God!**

**A MESSAGE** “The bewilderment; a necessary place...to visit.” Jeff Hansen

**KEY VERSE** And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness...Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God... *Mark 1:12 and 14*

*We Respond in Grateful Generosity*

**PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE**

Gracious God,  
We lift this prayer to you.



**OFFERING OUR GIFTS & SELVES** <https://bit.ly/giveSOH>

**OFFERING THANKS**

God of endless generosity, even in our wilderness times we are immersed in your love, and when we emerge, as we hope to soon from this pandemic wasteland, we find that it has not been a waste, that your promise is even more alive in us begging to be shared. Perhaps we can begin that even now, as we offer what we have and are, gratefully and hopefully, in the name and spirit of Jesus, whose prayer we also share...

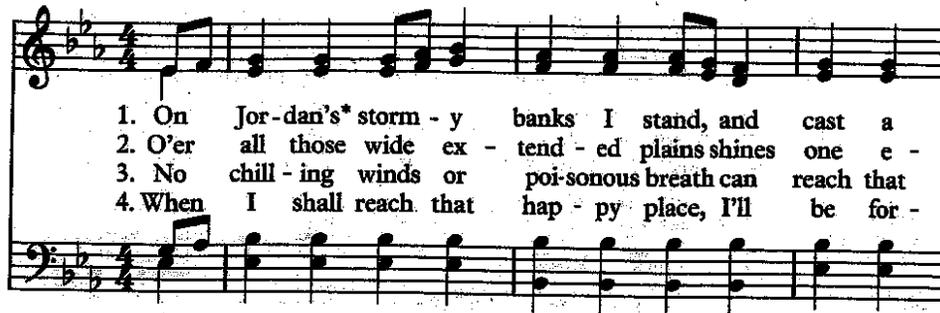
**OUR LORD’S PRAYER**

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Scatter—Together, in Christ, Always

CLOSING SONG

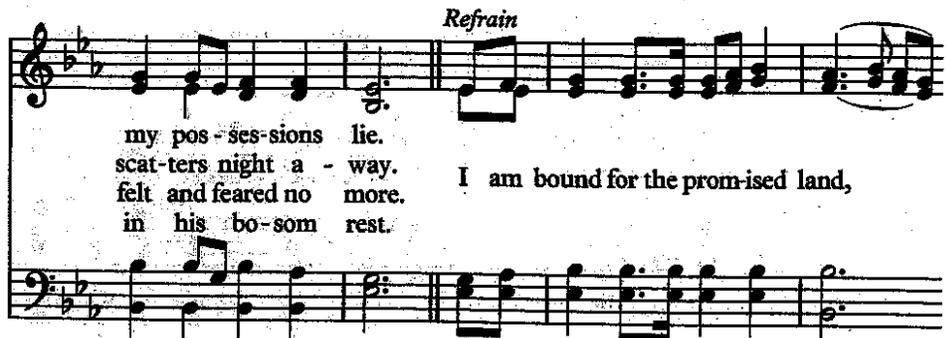
# On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand



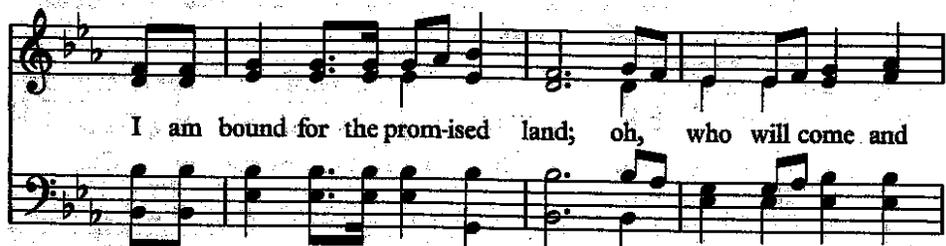
1. On Jor-dan's\* storm - y banks I stand, and cast a  
2. O'er all those wide ex - tend - ed plains shines one e -  
3. No chill - ing winds or poi-sonous breath can reach that  
4. When I shall reach that hap - py place, I'll be for -



wish - ful eye to Ca-naan's fair and hap - py land, where  
ter - nal day; there God the Son for - ev - er reigns, and  
health-ful shore; sick - ness and sor - row, pain and death, are  
ev - er blest, for I shall see my Fa-ther's face, and



*Refrain*  
my pos - ses - sions lie.  
scat - ters night a - way. I am bound for the prom - ised land,  
felt and feared no more.  
in his bo - som rest.



I am bound for the prom - ised land; oh, who will come and



go with me? I am bound for the prom - ised land.

\*Pronounced "Jerdan's"

WORDS: Samuel Stennett, 1787

MUSIC: *The Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. by Rigdon M. McIntosh, 1895

PROMISED LAND  
CM with Refrain

## A BLEST SENDING

Even in those wilderness times, times like this,

**We remember that we are bound for the Promised Land,**

Because the promise of God lives in us, just as we live in God! So let that truth speak through your life!

God send you, the Spirit fill you, Christ go with you, and you with Christ, always and everywhere! Amen!

**So may it be! Amen! God bless! Go in peace. Amen.**

## CLOSING MUSIC

*My Tribute*  
Jerry Rubino

Crouch/arr. Hayes

### My Tribute

How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me.  
Things so undeserved, yet You give to prove Your love for me.  
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude.  
All that I am and ever hope to be I owe it all to Thee.

### Chorus

To God be the glory, to God be the glory, to God be the glory for the things He has done.  
With His blood He has saved me, with His pow'r He has raised me.  
To God be the glory for the things He has done.

**Statement of Call:** We are called by God to be radically inclusive, caring community of faith offering personal and social transformation through Jesus Christ.

**Reconciling Statement:** We are a reconciling congregation welcoming people of all sexual orientations.

**Climate Statement:** As Christians and Stewards of the Earth, we are called to adopt practices and support public policies to combat the climate change crisis. Spirit of Hope UMC pledges to consider climate impact in its practices and policies.