

Wednesday Mid-Day Prayer Service

For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C **And also with you.**
- P Let us pray. Almighty God, you rescue your own from the grasp of evil. Deliver us in the time of trouble and confirm our trust in you, so that at dusk we may sing of your justice and at dawn exult in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (Psalm 59)
- C **Amen.**

How Small Our Span of Life



1 How small our span of life, O God, our years from birth till death:
2 And yet our speck of life is spanned by your in - fin - i - ty;
3 O Christ, you left e - ter - ni - ty to plunge in time's swift stream,
4 We thank you, God, for kind-ling faith that lights our tran - sient years,



a sin - gle beat with - in the heart, the catch - ing of a breath,
our tick of time on earth is caught in your e - ter - ni - ty.
to share the short-ness of our span, our mor - tal lives re - deem.
il - lu - min - ing our pil - grim - age through mists of doubt and fears;



a drop with-in the o - cean's deep, a grain up - on the shore,
While suns and stars spin end - less - ly through depths of cos - mic space,
You filled your cross-closed years with love; you loved us to the end
for hope that sees a life be - yond the swift - ly pass - ing days;



a flash of light be - fore we sleep to see the sun no more.
while ae - ons roll and ag - es pass, you hold us in your grace.
and touch us with your ris - en life that ours may time trans - cend.
for love, both hu - man and di - vine, that lifts our hearts to praise.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923
Music: KINGSFOLD, English traditional
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Isaiah 12:1-6

¹You will say in that day:

I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
and you comforted me.

²Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord GOD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the LORD,
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;

proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

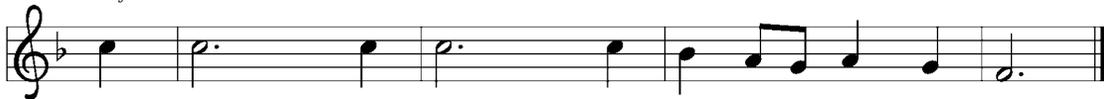


1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

5 At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

6 Praise God who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
one God forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–1891, alt.

Music: MARION, Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916

Let Truth

Let truth shine from your face,
Spark from your eyes,
Overflow from your lips.

Let truth protect your heart,
Shield your lungs,
Exude from your chest.

Let truth strengthen your bones,
Engage your nerves,
Capture your being.

For truth is in each moment and each question,
The earth's hot core and the cold edge of the universe,
The flow of wisdom from God's Holy Word,
Divine mysteries and secrets,

Calling out to you, my sisters and brothers:
"Awake you slumberers!
Awake you who sit idle and hapless
against the tide of dishonesty and deceit.

Have you forgotten My promises?
Have you forsaken our covenant,
our pact to care for Creation?
Have you turned away from your hopes and ideals?"

This, then, is God's command:
Let truth envelop you, Protect you,
Flow through you.
Let truth carry you into honest days
And righteous seasons.
Speak and teach, Listen and hear,
Lifting your life with dignity and understanding.

Let truth be your signature and your legacy.
Blessed are You, God of truth.

Solovy, Alden. This Grateful Heart: Psalms and Prayers for a New Day (p. 140). CCAR Press. Kindle Edition.

The LORD bless you and protect you!
The LORD deal kindly and graciously with you!
The LORD bestow His favor upon you and grant you peace!