

Waupun United Methodist Church, Waupun, WI  
Worship Hymns and Bible Readings  
3rd Sunday of Easter - 4/26/2020

**Just as I Am, Without One Plea**

**Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidst me come to thee,**

**Refrain:**

**O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,**

**Refrain:**

**Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fighting and fears within, without,**

**Refrain:**

**Just as I am, thy love unknown hath broken every barrier down;  
now, to be thine, year, thine alone,**

**Refrain:**

Bible Reading

1 Peter 1:17-23

<sup>17</sup> And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as “temporary residents.” <sup>18</sup> For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. <sup>19</sup> It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless

Lamb of God. <sup>20</sup> God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.

<sup>21</sup> Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.

<sup>22</sup> You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.

<sup>23</sup> For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. New Living Translation (NLT)

## **"Amazing Grace" ("My Chains Are Gone")**

**Amazing Grace! how sweet the sound that saved and set me free!  
I once was lost but now am found; was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear; and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.**

**Refrain: My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.  
And like a flood his mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.**

**The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

**Refrain: My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.  
And like a flood his mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.**

**Refrain: My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.  
And like a flood his mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.**

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine.  
But God who called me here below, will be forever mine, will be forever mine.  
You are forever mine.**

### **Bible Reading**

**Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd,

<sup>36</sup> "[So] let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!"

<sup>37</sup> Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God." <sup>40</sup> Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"

<sup>41</sup> Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

(NLT)

## **Victory in Jesus**

**I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory,  
how he gave his life on Calvary to save a wretch like me;  
I hear about his groaning, of his precious blood's atoning,  
then I repented of my sins and won the victory.**

**Refrain:**

**O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever!  
He sought me and bought me with is redeeming blood;  
he loved me ere I knew him, and all my love is due him;  
he plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.**

**I heard about his healing, of his cleansing power revealing,  
how he made the lame to walk again and caused the blind to see;  
and then I cried, "Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit,"  
and somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory.**

**Refrain:**

**O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever!  
He sought me and bought me with is redeeming blood;  
he loved me ere I knew him, and all my love is due him;  
he plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.**

**I heard about a mansion he has built for me in glory,  
and I heard about the streets of gold beyond the crystal sea;  
about the angels singing and the old redemption story,  
and some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of victory.**

**Refrain:**

**O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever!  
He sought me and bought me with is redeeming blood;  
he loved me ere I knew him, and all my love is due him;  
he plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.**

## What ARE Apportionments?

From our earliest days as Methodists and members of the Evangelical Association, we have been taught to be faithful stewards of God's grace. Jacob Albright and John Wesley preached that the work of every man and woman was to care for God's creation. Both men went so far as to say that there is no one alive for whom we do not have responsibility. Our ministry and compassion is spread to the ends of the earth. Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Individuals can do very little to transform the world. Sole congregations can do little more. Even whole Annual Conferences are inadequate to make a major difference. But twelve million United Methodists worldwide, each making a contribution, each giving sacrificially to the larger church? There is very little that twelve million committed Christians cannot accomplish. And to pay our apportionments in full costs less than two dollars per person per week. Less than \$100 a year. We have the potential of placing over \$1.1 billion dollars into God's work in the world each and every year, with very little personal cost or sacrifice.

Two dollars a week? To serve millions of people and save millions of lives? To spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the entire planet? To feed the hungry and house the homeless? To clothe the naked and heal the sick? To visit prisoners and raise healthy children? To instill hope through kindness, compassion, justice and love? Two dollars seems a small price to pay to transform the world, yet that is all that is asked by The United Methodist Church. It is helpful to remember Paul's words to the church at Corinth: *I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance* (2 Corinthians 8:13-14).

We don't ask any individual to go into poverty, nor do we expect any local church to suffer financially. But it is the vision of The United Methodist Church that each member of each congregation will make a commitment to fully fund the apportionments. If each member takes seriously her or his commitment, then it will be a simple matter to hold the church accountable. Churches should never feel forced or coerced to pay apportionments. When faithful Christians understand the good that is done and the benefits received, they choose to pay apportionments with joy and pride. We need to help one another understand the great good that we accomplish through our apportionment giving.

What exactly are apportionments, and where did the concept come from? Turning to the 2012 edition of our Book of Discipline, we find a wordy explanation in .247.14: *As soon as practicable after the session of annual conference, each district superintendent or designated agent shall notify each local church in the district what amounts have been apportioned to it for World Service, conference benevolences and other general Church, jurisdictional, and annual conference funds. In preparation for and at the charge conference, it shall be the responsibility of the district superintendent, the pastor, and the lay member(s) of the annual conference and/or the church lay leader(s) to interpret to each charge conference the importance of these apportioned funds, explaining the causes supported by each of them and their place in the total program of the Church.*

The World Service Fund is basic in the financial program of The United Methodist Church. World Service on apportionment represents the minimum needs for the mission and ministry of the Church. Conference benevolences represent the minimum needs for mission and ministry in the annual conference. Payment in full of these apportionments by local churches is the first benevolent responsibility of the church.

Apportionments are a combination of funds needed to provide the minimum level of financial support for the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church as a denomination, plus the funds needed to provide the minimum level of mission and ministry support within the annual conference, plus additional general Church, jurisdictional, and annual conference commitments (generally short-term fiscal needs to offset deficits or provide for special needs).

Note that payment in full is identified as the first financial priority of a local church, and that it is the responsibility of the district superintendent, the pastor, the lay member(s) to annual conference and the lay leader to explain apportionments and educate the congregation as to their value and importance. Why is this viewed as our top financial priority? Because were we to pay our apportionments in full each year — at all levels of the denomination — literally millions of people worldwide would be fed, housed, clothed, healed, strengthened, educated, redeemed, restored and invited into eternal salvation through the love and grace of Jesus Christ . . . millions who otherwise may be lost physically and spiritually.