

Call to Worship

God of grace, creator of waters (VT 931)

Leader: God of grace, creator of waters,
your Spirit hovered over the deep.

**Left: We remember that you separated the land from the waters
and provided rain to freshen the ground.**

Right: We remember that you flooded the earth
and held creatures and people above the waters.

**Left: We remember that you parted the waters
as your people fled from bondage in Egypt.**

Right: We remember Jesus your Son,
who, like all of us, arrived in the waters of childbirth.

**Left: We remember John baptizing in the waters of the Jordan
and the Spirit descending like a dove.**

Right: We remember that Jesus shared our thirst
and a Samaritan woman shared water from a well.

**All: *Living Water,*
pour your Spirit upon us.
Wash us and free us from sin,
make us fruitful in every way,
*and renew your world with showers of blessing.***

Mennonite Worship and Song Committee, 2020

Congregational Hymn: We Sing to You, O God (VT 80)

Verse 1:

We sing to you, O God, the Rock who gave us birth.
Let our rejoicing sing your name in all the earth.
To you, O God, let songs be raised,
in joyful hymns, our feast of praise.

Verse 2:

We wandered far from home, out in a desert land.
You shielded with your love our fearful pilgrim band.
You kept us safe within your arms,
and sheltered us against the storm.

Verse 3:

You bear us through the world, an eagle to her young,
who rises on her wings and bears us toward the sun.
We ride the vaults of light and air,
and trust in your unfailing care.

Verse 4:

O God, eternal God, we hide within your wings,
the everlasting arms to whom our praises ring.
Your word is true, your way is just,
you are the God in whom we trust.

Descant, verse 4:

O God, eternal God, we hide within your wings,
the everlasting arms to whom our praises ring.
Ah, you are our God in whom we trust.

Text: Gracia Grindal (USA), © 1993 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

Congregational Hymn: Make Us One (VT 455)

God—Creator, Christ the Son, Holy Spirit—Three-in-One,
by your strength and grace we turn to the peace we could not earn.
In these waters make us new; let your grace come pouring through.
Bring us closer; make us one with your church, through Christ the Son.

Text: Anneli Loepp Thiessen (Canada), © 2018 Anneli Loepp Thiessen

Congregational Hymn: Rain Down (VT 703)

Refrain:

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your people.
Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, God of life.

Verse 1:

Faithful and true is the Word of our God.
All of God's works are so worthy of trust.
God's mercy falls on the just and the right;
full of God's love is the earth.

Refrain

Verse 2:

We who revere and find hope in our God
live in the kindness and joy of God's wing.
God will protect us from darkness and death;
God will not leave us to starve.

Refrain

Verse 3:

God of creation, we long for your truth;
you are the water of life that we thirst.
Grant that your love and your peace touch our hearts,
all of our hope lies in you.

Refrain

Text: Jaime Cortez (USA), 1991, © 1992 Jaime Cortez (published by OCP Publications)

Congregational Hymn: *Joys Are Flowing like a River (VT 375)*

Verse 1:

Joys are flowing like a river since the Comforter has come,
who abides with us forever, makes the trusting heart a home.

Refrain:

Blessed quietness, holy quietness—what assurance in my soul!
On the stormy sea speaking peace to me—how the billows cease to roll!

Verse 2:

Like the rain that falls from heaven, like the sunlight from the sky,
so the Holy Ghost is given, coming on us from on high.

Refrain

Verse 4:

What a wonderful salvation, where we always see God's face!
What a perfect habitation, what a quiet resting place!

Refrain:

Blessed quietness, holy quietness—what assurance in my soul!
On the stormy sea speaking peace to me—how the billows cease to roll!

Text: Manie P. Ferguson (USA), ca. 1897, alt.

Benediction

God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow,
we leave this place remembering the story of your work in the world
that began long before us.
We find hope in the knowledge that
the story does not end with us either.
Lead us forth from here in memory and hope,
free to proclaim the good news of your reign. Amen.

Anna Showalter (USA), 2014. (*slightly adapted*)

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