

First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown  
African-American History Month - February 12, 2023 - 10:30 AM

*"...what stood out most strikingly about Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., Ella Baker, and Fannie Lou Hamer was that they were almost always visibly upset about the condition of black America... Malcolm, Martin, Ella, and Fannie were angry about [it], and this anger fueled their boldness and defiance." Cornel West, Race Matters (1993)*

MUSIC FOR MEDIATION

WORDS OF WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

[pg. 3](#)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

PRELUDE

"Somewhere In Time" (Golden)

Bob Lowden

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN PH 354

"Guide My Feet"

[pg. 4](#)

*(Guide My Feet is an African-American spiritual based on Hebrews 12:1-2. The tune is from the spirituals collected in 1900 by Willis Laurence James, and it was harmonized by Wendell Phillips Whalum, for many years head of the music department at Morehouse College, a historically Black college in Atlanta, Georgia.)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Glory, we see as if by a flash of blinding light the meaning of something we have done: the hasty word, the careless utterance, the deliberate act by which another was injured or confused, the decision to do what even at the time we felt was neither the right thing nor the thing which we were willing to back with our lives. All of these things crowd in upon us, O God of Mercy. We want to be sure that what we say in Thy presence and what we feel in Thy presence will be honest and clear and sincere. As we look at this aspect of our lives, there is only one moving request which we make, and that is for forgiveness: forgiveness for the sin, for the wrong act, for the bad deed. Forgive us, O God. *Silent prayer***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

O Lord, deep in my soul let the floods of glory roll!

**Hallelujah! I am free, Lord, by faith, by faith in Thee.**

*(from a hymn text [1906] by Charles Price Jones, founder and first bishop of the Church of Christ [Holiness])*

SUNG RESPONSE PH 322

"Spirit of the Living God"

[pg. 5](#)

*(Spirit of the Living God was written and composed by the Rev. Daniel Iverson, a Southern Presbyterian pastor, in 1926. Iverson was white, yet his hymn has been a steady favorite of African-American churches.)*

PROCLAIMING THE WORD TOGETHER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING -- II Kings 5:1-14

SECOND READING – Mark 1:40-45

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SERMON

*“Between Pity and Anger”*

Rev. Dr. Byron Shafer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN PH 404

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

[pg. 5](#)

*(Thomas A. Dorsey [1899-1993] was the founder of gospel music and composed over 1,000 songs. In 1932, just days after the death of both his first wife and infant son in childbirth, Dorsey sought solace by improvising at his piano on old hymn tunes, including Maitland by George N. Allen. Dorsey’s blues version came forth. Soon, words for the music came to Dorsey, inspired by Psalm 139:10. This hymn was hardly known in white churches, however, until Mahalia Jackson sang it on a nationally televised broadcast following the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. Today, “Precious Lord” is the most widely sung black gospel song ever written.)*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

GLORIA PATRI

PH 579

THE OFFERING

*As we continue to provide support to our community during this time, we hope you will consider giving through [this link](#) or by mailing your regular tithes and offerings.*

OFFERTORY

"Sing a New Song" (Schutz)

Choir

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

**Loving God, help us to turn our hearts toward you.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

GOING FORTH IN GOD’S NAME TO SERVE THE LORD

HYMN 369

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

[pg. 5](#)

*(This spiritual affirms living a righteous life in response to the gospel message. It is set to a Black folk melody arranged in 1984 by William Phillips Whelan [1932-1987], who also arranged the music for “Guide My Feet.”)*

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Thou Art Worthy” (Mills)

Bob Lowden

SHARING PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Return to bulletin](#)

Welcome back to our guest preacher Rev. Dr. Byron Shafer. Dr. Shafer is an emeritus professor of Biblical Studies at Fordham University and Pastor emeritus of the Rutgers Presbyterian Church in New York City. In retirement, Dr. Shafer was for four semesters Visiting Professor of Biblical Studies at United Theological College in Bangalore, India. For seventeen years he was the Protestant host on WABC's Sunday morning program "Religion on the Line."

Also serving this Lord's day: Interim Director of Music Ministry Caryl Tipton; Accompanist Robert Lowden; Liturgist Donna Potts.

Please use the Joys and Concerns card in your pew for any prayer requests.

Please pick up your 2023 offering envelopes and your 2022 Giving Statements on the back counter/table in the sanctuary.

Join us for Fellowship Time following worship. Please consider signing up to host, on your own or with a buddy. Contact Candy Walling to volunteer at (609) 298-2581.

We are truly grateful that pastoral care will be provided by Rev. Terry Fouse. If you are in need, please contact him at 609-585-3248 (h) or 609-540-4035 (c).

If you are in need of assistance with housekeeping, grocery shopping, laundry or meal preparation, please contact Judie Martin. We currently have someone working with a homebound church member who is looking for more work hours. Interested people would be responsible for checking references and setting up an interview.

Struggling or do you know someone in our church family who is? Our Congregational Care Team would love to offer support. Please reach out to Judie Martin @ (609) 505-0068 if you, or someone you know, could use help and support. If anyone needs a portable oxygen unit you can contact the office.

St. Mary's Food Pantry Current Needs - *coffee, soap, paper towels, toilet paper*. You may place donations in right basket at rear of sanctuary OR drop them off when the pantry is open. Thanks for your continued support and generosity. To learn more, visit: <http://mmotcp.org/food-pantry>.

Please Remember in Your Prayers – From the "Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study": *Spiritual practice of rest; Healing injustices; Valentine's Day; First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; New Church New Way podcast; the Mother Teresa of Utah; Four Ladies in their Eighties.*

Today's worship service recording will be available following worship on our website at <http://www.bordentownpresbyterian.org/worship.html>. Music reprinted/streamed with permission under CCLI #11082859/CSPL169414 and/or OneLicense #736907-A. All rights reserved. We are grateful to Feasting on the Word Worship Companion © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press for some of our liturgy today.

“Guide My Feet”

***Guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!***

***Hold my hand while I run this race,  
Hold my hand while I run this race,  
Hold my hand while I run this race,  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!***

***Stand by me while I run this race,  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!***

***I'm Your child while I run this race,  
I'm Your child while I run this race,  
I'm Your child while I run this race,  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!***

***Search my heart while I run this race,  
Search my heart while I run this race,  
Search my heart while I run this race,  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!***

***Guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!***

[Return to bulletin](#)

Sung Response  
PH 322

“Spirit of the Living God”

***Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.***

***Melt me; mold me;  
fill me; use me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.***

[Return to bulletin](#)

---

Middle Hymn  
PH 404

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

***Precious Lord, take my hand;  
lead me on, help me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night,  
lead me on to the light;  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.***

***When my way grows drear,  
precious Lord, linger near;  
when my life is almost gone,  
hear my cry, hear my call,  
hold my hand lest I fall;  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.***

[Return to bulletin](#)

---

Closing Hymn  
PH 369

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

***I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!***

***I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!***

***I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!***

***I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!***

[Return to bulletin](#)