



First Coming

God did not wait till the world was ready,
till . . . nations were at peace.

God came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.

God did not wait for the perfect time.
God came when the need was deep and great.
God dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine. God did not wait

till hearts were pure. In joy God came
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
God came, and God's Light would not go out.

God came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Madeleine L'Engle

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Valley Community Presbyterian Church
8060 SW Brentwood, Portland, Oregon 97225

August 9, 2009 at 10:00 AM

- ❖ *Please stand if you choose*
Bold Text is spoken by everyone

GATHER IN G_D'S NAME

HYMN SING

WELCOME AND COMMON CONCERNS

- ❖ CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT *Kyrie* No. 2275

- ❖ CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist, Margaret Johnston

A leper came to Jesus, begging him, and, kneeling, he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean."

Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!"

Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him, Jesus sent him away at once, saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone..."

But he went out and began to proclaim it freely—for how could he keep from singing? Yes! How could he keep from singing!

- ❖ HYMN OF PRAISE *My Life Flows On* (vs.1&2) No. 2212

- ❖ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy G_d, Naaman was an important man used to dealing with important people. When he approached the king of Israel with great riches, astride his horses and chariots, he was met by the servant of an important prophet with a simple command: "Go wash." Naaman was furious, as much for the slight as for the simplicity of the command. As with Naaman, G_d, so are we. Forgive our presumption. Open our ears to hear you, whether through the words of the important or the unimportant. For what profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

❖ **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Sing praises to G_d, O you faithful ones, and give thanks to G_d's holy name. G_d has heard us and has been gracious to us. G_d has turned our mourning into dancing. G_d has removed our sackcloth and clothes us with joy. So our souls may praise G_d and not be silent! How can we keep from singing?

Amen! Yes! How can we keep from singing?

❖ **RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

My Life Flows On (vs. 3&4)

No. 2212

❖ **THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

A TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

PROCLAIM G_D'S WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Bach/Hess

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

2 Kings 5:1-15 and Luke 7:1-10

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

On Taking the Cure

René Minshew

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (p.16)

RESPOND TO THE WORD

OFFERING (Please sign and pass the friendship folder)

Call for the Offering

Piano Offertory

Impromptu

Schubert

❖ **Doxology**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

No. 592

(Traditional tune, but we will be singing it a little faster)

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

We will extol you, O G_d, because we cried for help and you healed us. In your mercy, you did not leave us in our prosperity, but called us out to share our wealth, our time, ourselves with others out of gratitude for your great love. Because of this, our souls praise you and cannot be silent. How can we keep from singing?

Yes! How can we keep from singing! Amen.

GO IN G_D'S NAME

❖ HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

No. 276

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen

No. 585

** Concerning the writing of the word G_d in the worship bulletin:
the name of G_d is so holy that it is never to be written, only pointed to.*