



**Order of Worship  
February 21, 2021**

**Welcome**

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

**Greeting**

Connor Moore

God meets us in the night—  
Before the sun rises,  
Before the wound heals,  
Before there are answers,  
Before there is closure.

God meets us in the light—  
Where joy is effervescent,  
Where laughter is contagious,  
Where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,  
And where people gather around the table.

God meets us at the threshold—  
At the edge of the water,  
At the beginning of the wilderness,  
At the start of something new,  
On the edge of faith.

And if God meets us in all those places,  
Then surely God meets us in between—  
Staying with us through the wilderness.  
We are not alone. God is all around.  
Let us worship the God of the here and now!

## Opening Hymn

## How Great Is Our God

### Confession and Pardon

Jennifer London

Again and again, God meets us where we are.  
God's love knows no bounds, which is hard for us to understand and easy for us to forget.

Therefore, in confession we remember together that we are not alone.

And in a unified voice, we once again ask for God's grace in that holy reminder.

Family of faith, please pray with me:

God who meets us where we are—  
There is nowhere we can go that you are not.  
You were with Jesus at his baptism.  
You were with him in the wilderness.  
And even in between, you were there,  
Saying aloud, "This is my beloved."

We know that you are with us, too—  
In the good, the bad and everything in between—  
But so often we act like we are alone.  
Instead of coming to you with our hurt, we hold it in or cast it onto others.  
Instead of coming to you with our joy, we credit ourselves and offer you nothing.  
How can we long for a deeper relationship with you while living like you are nowhere to be found?

Forgive our self-centered ways.  
Remind us that in every breath, in every step, you are there.  
You are the God who meets us where we are.  
Before and behind, above and below, within and around. Amen.

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Family of faith, if you hear nothing else today, hear this:  
God is here. God sees you. God knows you.

God meets you at the edge of every new beginning,  
And God calls you beloved.  
**We are washed by the water.**  
**We are called beloved.**  
**Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

## **Methodist Black History Moment**

### **Scripture**

**Mark 1:9-15**

George Hobart

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

### **Sermon**

**Again & Again: God Meets Us** Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

### **Sacrament of Baptism**

Andrew Baker Veth

### **Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith**

Do you, as Christ's body, the church,  
reaffirm both your rejection of sin  
and your commitment to Christ?

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Andrew  
now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news  
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround Andrew  
with a community of love and forgiveness,  
that he may grow in his trust of God  
and be found faithful in his service to others.**

**We will pray for him,  
that he may be a true disciple  
who walks in the way that leads to life.**

Let us join together in profession the Christian faith  
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**Thanksgiving Over the Water**

## **Baptism**

Now it is our joy to welcome our new brother in Christ.

**Through baptism**

**you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit**

**into God's new creation**

**and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.**

**We are all one in Christ Jesus.**

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you**

**as a member of the family of Christ.**

## **Baptismal Hymn**

### **God Claims You**

Andrew, Andrew, God claims you.

God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

We this day do all agree, a child of God you'll always be.

## **Commendation and Welcome**

Members of the household of God,

I commend Andrew to your love and care.

Do all in your power to increase his faith,

confirm his hope, and perfect him in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you**

**and we welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you**

**in the body of Christ**

**and in this congregation**

**of The United Methodist Church,**

**we renew our covenant**

**faithfully to participate**

**in the ministries of the church**

**by our prayers, our presence,**

**our gifts, our service, and our witness,**

**that in everything God may be glorified**

**through Jesus Christ.**

**Offering Prayer**

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Gracious God,  
through our offerings of worship, of time, of money,  
we seek to make space for you in our lives.  
During this season of Lent,  
may we loosen our grasp on the treasures of this world  
and store up for ourselves treasure in heaven.  
May these gifts we have given be used for your good work of peace, justice,  
and service in the world. Amen.

**Special Music****With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh**

Chenault

Chancel Choir

**Prayer**

Jennifer London

Gracious and loving God,  
we come to you with hearts that need to be opened  
to your word and your love.  
There is so much around us that tears at us  
and causes us to tremble.  
Keep us ever mindful of your presence  
and the hope that you have given us  
in your Son Jesus Christ.

Guide us, we pray, as your church,  
struggling to spread the good news.  
Keep us focused on the mission and ministry  
to which you have called us and lead us forward.  
We know, Lord,  
that there will often be bumps and holes in the road along the way.  
Save us from dwelling on them  
and make us secure in the goals you have placed before us.

Hear our prayers for all who need  
your tender touch of healing in their lives—

those we name before you each day,  
and those who are known only to you in the depths of our hearts.  
Be with those who mourn.  
May we all remember the love and grace  
that your faithful people have brought to our world.

We pray for all your creation, always at odds with one another.  
Guide our leaders and those of other nations  
that this world might truly be as you created it to be—  
a world of peace, hope and love.

These are our prayers,  
together with those that lie on the hearts of all your faithful people,  
which we offer to you in the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said “not my will, but thine be done.” Amen.

**Hymn**

**Close to Thee**

UMH 407

**Benediction**

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

**Postlude**

**Vater Unser im Himmelreich**

Scheidemann

*You are invited to make your offering to support the ministry and mission of Clarendon UMC. Simply return to the Online Worship page of our website and click the button marked “Make your online offering.”*

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Bulletin Production: Tanya Sabin

Video Production: Sean Gilliam

Worship Material taken from the *Again & Again* Lenten Series

A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

- Liturgy and prayers by Rev. Sarah Are
- Scripture commentary resource by Rev. T. Denise Anderson
- Sermon Guide by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity
- Graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Closing Prayer: *Life in Liturgy*. <https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com>

## Close to Thee

407

1. Thou my ev - er - last - ing por - tion, more than  
 2. Not for ease or world - ly plea - sure, nor for  
 3. Lead me through the vale of shad - ows, bear me

friend or life to me, all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
 fame my prayer shall be; glad - ly will I toil and suf - fer,  
 o'er life's fit - ful sea; then the gate of life e - ter - nal

*Refrain*  
 Sav - ior, let me walk with thee.  
 on - ly let me walk with thee. Close to thee, close to thee,  
 may I en - ter, Lord, with thee.

close to thee, close to thee, all a - long my pil - grim  
 glad - ly will I toil and  
 then the gate of life e -

jour - ney, Sav - ior, let me walk with thee.  
 suf - fer, on - ly let me walk with thee.  
 ter - nal may I en - ter, Lord, with thee.