

The Holy Way Presbyterian Church



The Liberation of Saint Peter by an Angel, 1870 -English School

July 20, 2025

***Guest Preacher
Kathy Americano***

Welcome to Worship

Announcements

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Ray Weathers

(...singing Happy Birthday, God Loves You!) If you would like to participate in our tradition of celebrating your birthday or anniversary by giving money towards church improvements, music department, or children's ministry, please waive your hand, or stand up and your donation will be received in the basket!

***Call to Worship**

Carol Portillo

One: Please Stand in body or in spirit for the Call to Worship.

In a world of increasing hostility and persecution, where followers of Christ face trials and dangers, our hearts may be tempted to fear and despair.

All: But we remember the story of Peter, imprisoned and guarded by soldiers, yet delivered by the hand of God.

One: The church gathered earnestly and persistently prayed for Peter's release, and all are called to bring needs before the Heavenly Father in prayer.

All: We believe in the power of prayer, knowing that God hears petitions and answers according to His perfect will.

One: Even when faced with uncertainty and apparent defeat, it is important not to give up hope, but to trust that God is at work, orchestrating His plans.

All: For He is the God of the breakout, the God of deliverance, the God of freedom, who can undermine the intentions of evil and set His people free.

One: Let us therefore worship Him with grateful hearts, remembering the great things He has done, and trusting Him for the great things He will yet do.

All: Amen.

***Opening Prayer**

***Opening Hymn #451** *Open My Eyes That I May See*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess that sometimes we feel stuck-stuck in our sins, our doubts, and our fears. Like Peter behind locked doors, we feel trapped by things we can't fix on our own. We've chosen our own way instead of Yours. We've ignored people who needed us. We've held onto anger, pride, or selfishness.

Please forgive us. Break through the walls we've built. Unlock the places we're stuck and set us free with Your mercy and love. Amen.

A Time of Silence

[Please take this time in silence to offer your own prayers of confession—confessing your need for God and naming those barriers that keep you from knowing life as God's beloved child.]

Assurance of Pardon

***Passing of the Peace**

Since God has made peace with us, let us make peace with each other.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

Congregation: And also with you.

(Please share the Peace of Christ with each other)

Moment to Remember Linda Swibold.....by daughter, Laura Dinsmore

Celebrations, Joys and Concerns

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer...

Our Offerings to God

Offertory Music

***Doxology (607)**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, Whom we adore. Amen*

Offering Prayer

Prayer for Illumination

Carol Portillo

Let us pray: Loving God, fountain of every blessing, open us to your life giving word and fill us with your Holy spirit so that living water may flow through our hearts. A spring of hope for a thirsty world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture James 5:13-16

Carol Portillo

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

Anthem *Keep Me Faithfully in Thy Paths*

Acts 12 :1-19

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were

keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. On recognizing Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, 'You are out of your mind!' But she insisted that it was so. They said, 'It is his angel.' Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the gate, they saw him and were amazed. He motioned to them with his hand to be silent, and described for them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he added, 'Tell this to James and to the believers.' Then he left and went to another place.

When morning came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. When Herod had searched for him and could not find him, he examined the guards and ordered them to be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

***Sending Hymn #539** *We Will go out With Joy*

***Benediction**

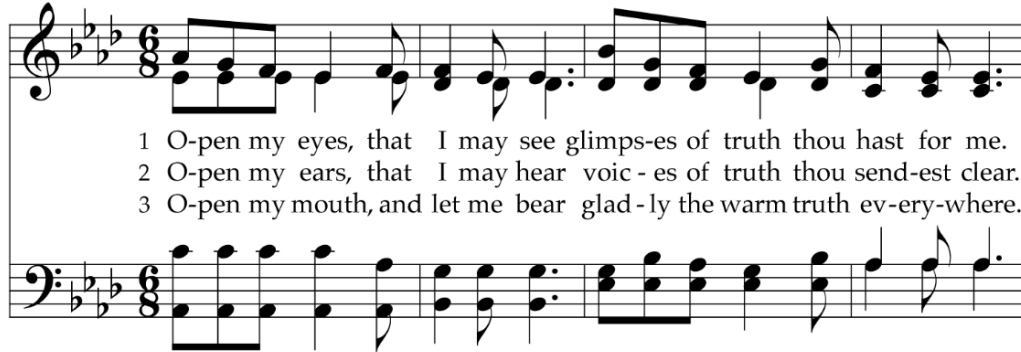
***Song:**

Let There be Peace on Earth

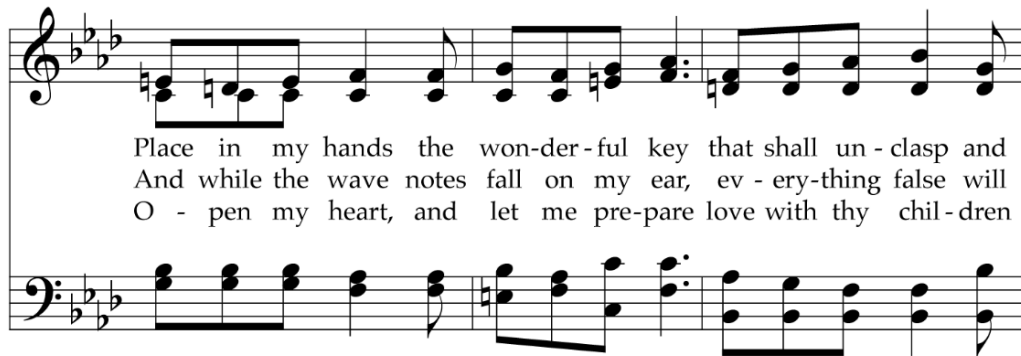
<i>Let there be peace on earth</i>	<i>Let peace begin with me,</i>
<i>And let it begin with me.</i>	<i>Let this be the moment now.</i>
<i>Let there be peace on earth</i>	<i>With ev'ry step I take</i>
<i>The peace that was meant to be.</i>	<i>Let this be my solemn vow;</i>
<i>With God as our Father</i>	<i>To take each moment and live</i>
<i>Christians all are we.</i>	<i>Each moment in peace eternally.</i>
<i>Let us walk with each other</i>	<i>Let there be peace on earth</i>
<i>In perfect harmony.</i>	<i>And let it begin with me.</i>

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

Open My Eyes, That I May See 451



1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
 2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send-est clear.
 3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un - clasp and
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery-thing false will
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 dis - ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy



will to see. O-pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!
 will to see. O-pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!
 will to see. O-pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!

The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

We Will Go Out with Joy 539

C
Leader

1 We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.
 2 Now an - y - one who's born of the Spir-it, sing a new song of joy.
 3 We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.

C
All

We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.
 Now an - y - one who's born of the Spir-it, sing a new song of joy.
 We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia! We will go out with joy.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Drawing on the phrasing of Isaiah 55:12, this joyful sending hymn was created by a musical Canadian father and daughter, beginning with the tune that emerged from a four-hand piano improvisation. The completed hymn later served as the recessional music for her wedding.