

## 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

'At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.'

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

## Acts 16:11-15

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.



## Lenten Worship – Week 4 Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Open My Life, Lord

Week of Lent 4: Open My Heart, Lord

Listening to Paul's teaching, Lydia opened her heart to God and was baptized. Her willing, trusting faith echoes down through the centuries as we witness her "open heart procedure."



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# LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE – APRIL 3, 2019

## Opening Dialogue

Open our hearts, Lord, to behold your laws.

**Teach us to walk in your commandments.**

Grant us grace to know and understand your will,

**for all that we are in body and soul is a gift from you.**

Lord, you are the everlasting Truth,

**the one who speaks the words of eternal life.**

Open our hearts, Lord, to behold your laws.

**Teach us to walk in your commandments.**

*(Based on Thomas à Kempis, 1380–1471, The Imitation of Christ, trans. Richard Whitford, ca. 1530)*

## Gathering Song ..... #801 Change My Heart, O God

### Greeting

### Prayer

Reading ..... 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Psalm 28 ..... Read in unison

To you, O Lord, I call; my rock, do not refuse to hear me,  
for if you are silent to me, I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.

<sup>2</sup> Hear the voice of my supplication, as I cry to you for help,  
as I lift up my hands towards your most holy sanctuary.

<sup>3</sup> Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who are workers of evil,  
who speak peace with their neighbours, while mischief is in their hearts.

<sup>4</sup> Repay them according to their work, and according to the evil of their deeds;  
repay them according to the work of their hands; render them their due reward.

<sup>5</sup> Because they do not regard the works of the Lord, or the work of his hands,  
he will break them down and build them up no more.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard the sound of my pleadings.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts;  
so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

<sup>9</sup> O save your people, and bless your heritage;  
be their shepherd, and carry them for ever.

Reading ..... Acts 16:11-15

### Reflection

Hymn of the Day ..... #512 Lord, let My Heart Be Good Soil

## Prayers

Lord of all life,

when we cannot see the beauty of your creation,

**open our eyes, that all living things thrive and grow.**

When we neglect the poor, the sick, and the grieving,

**open our hands to do your work in the world.**

When we ignore the cries of injustice in our midst,

**open our ears, that all will know your love.**

When we are hardened against our neighbor,

**open our hearts and heal our resentment.**

When we are closed to the grace you long to give us,

**open our lives and turn us to follow in the way of the cross.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom  
we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our  
Savior.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen**

## Peace

## Blessing

Sending Song ..... #811 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

## Dismissal