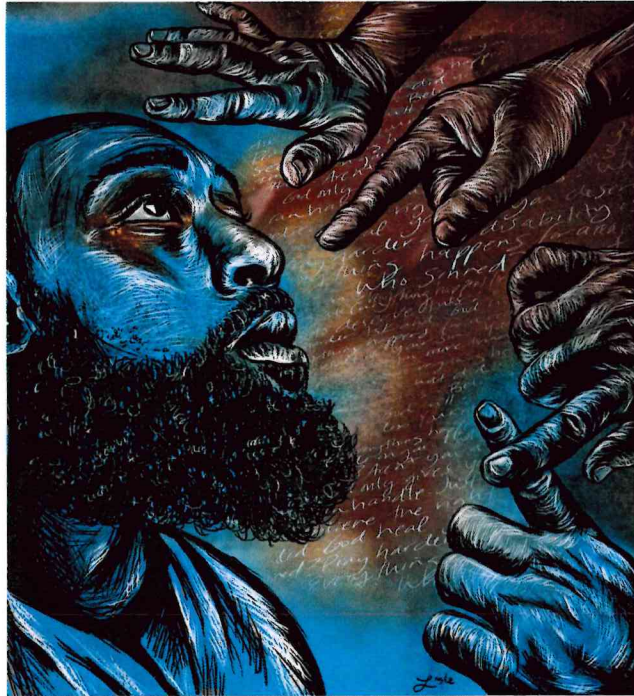




WESTMINSTER  
CHURCH OF DETROIT



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**Sunday, March 19, 2023**  
**The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

**Prelude**

Lonesome Valley

arr. Francis Jackson

*Welcome to all – especially to our guests.*

*Children and Youth are invited to Church School following the Passing of the Peace.*

*Hymns labeled GTG are in the Glory to God Hymnal (purple)*

*Hymns labeled AAHH are in the African American Heritage Hymnal (beige)*

*Hymns labeled OLOFOB are for your listening pleasure.*

*\*Please stand as you are able*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Scripture is full of questions...

**Where are you?**

Am I my brother's keeper?

**Whom shall I send?**

Who do you say that I am?

**Who sinned?**

How many times shall I forgive?

**If God is for us, who can be against us?**

Scripture is full of questions,

So just like those in our scriptures, may we bring our full curiosity and wonder into this space.

**Let us ask and seek after our merciful God.**

**Gospel Praise**

Hold Back The Night

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

Who here has sinned?

**We have sinned. We put our heads in the sand.**

**We ignored people in need.**

**We make false assumptions and fail to be kind.**

**We are in need of forgiveness.**

Good news! Our God is a merciful God.

God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score.

When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives.

When you lose your way, God comes running.

**Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

**Have you sinned?**

I have sinned. I put my head in the sand.

I ignore people in need.

I make false assumptions and fail to be kind. I, too, am in need of forgiveness.

**Good news! Our God is a merciful God.**

**God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score.**

**When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives.**

**When you lose your way, God comes running.**

Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

### Declaration of God's Forgiveness

The psalmist assures us

that God's goodness and mercy will follow us,  
even pursue us,

all the days of our life.

As God's forgiven people,

receive this goodness and mercy,

and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

**We will live as children of the light**

**for Christ shines in us.**

## **Passing of the Peace/A Time for Celebration**

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

*(Exchange signs of Christ's peace and forgiveness with others. We greet one another as neighbors in Christ. You may say "Peace be with you," or respond, "And also with you.")*

### **Response GTG #626**

As the Deer

**As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.**

**You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.**

**You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.**

**You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.**

### **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

#### **Prayer for Illumination**

#### **First Reading**

Ephesians 5:8-14

#### **Anthem**

Go and Tell John  
Chancel Choir

Lloyd Pfautsch

#### **Second Reading**

1st Samuel 16:1-13

#### **Message**

See Life Spiritually!

### **WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

#### **Hymn AAHH #261**

Victory In Jesus

#### **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in a merciful God,  
**a God who does not keep score,**  
**a God who wants good for us.**

We believe in a creative God,

**a God who would heal with mud,  
a God capable of seeing what we cannot.**

We believe in a saving God,

**a God who heals,  
a God who greets our questions with patience,  
a God who sends us out with hope in our step.**

What wonderful love is this. **Amen.**

### **Call to Offering**

*We are cautious as we gather for worship. We are not currently passing an offering plate. We have placed an offering plate outside the sanctuary where you may place your offerings.*

### **Invitation to Offering**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

#### **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 debts, as we  
forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not  
into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever, Amen.**

### **WE GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

**\*Closing Hymn GTG #314 Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness**

**A Spoken Word**

**\*Benediction**

## **Postlude**

Praeludium in D minor

Heinrich Scheidemann

*(The organ postlude is offered as an instrumental prayer. You are invited to remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly, remembering those who are still worshiping.)*

### **Worship Leaders:**

The Rev. Opelton Parker, Guest Preacher

The Rev. Karen Stunkel, Interim Pastor

The Rev. TC Anderson, Director of Faith Formation

Mr. Dalos Grobe, Organist/Choir Director

Mr. Victor Boyd, Gospel Choir Director

Marilyn Gundam-Mokom, Liturgist

\*Those who are able may stand.

### **Today's Anthem**

Go and tell John what you see and hear, that the blind recover their sight...that the lame are able to walk...that the deaf are able to hear. Go tell John, tell him what you see and hear, that the sick regain their health...that the dead are raised to life. Happy is the man who comes to me, happy is the man who believes in me for he shall see God. Go and tell John.

### **Copyright Acknowledgements:**

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

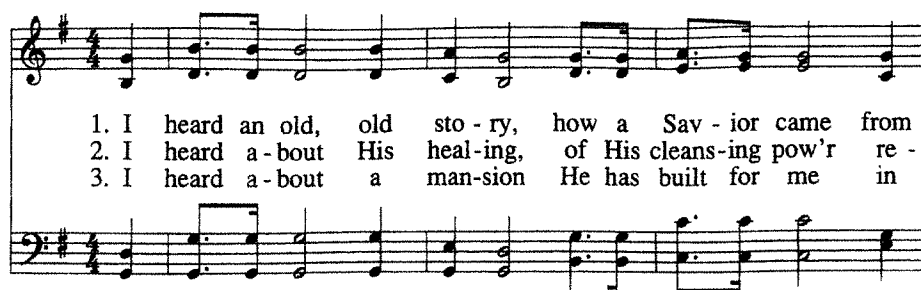
Artwork "Insight" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

### **Correction to the 2022 Annual Report:**

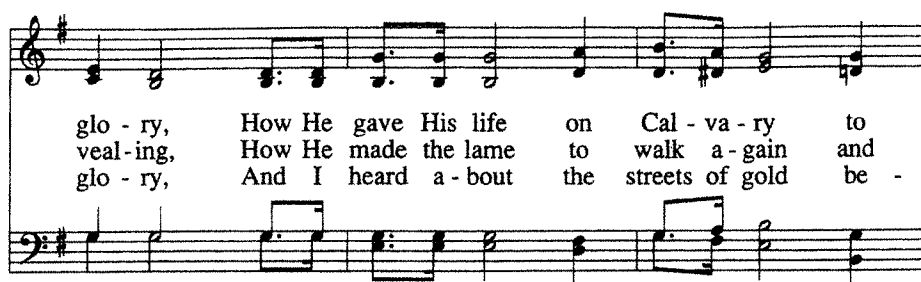
Ms. Winnie Armstead-Mucker's name was spelled incorrectly in the necrology report of the 2022 annual report. This has been corrected in the final copy.

## 261 VICTORY IN JESUS

*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
1 Corinthians 15:57*



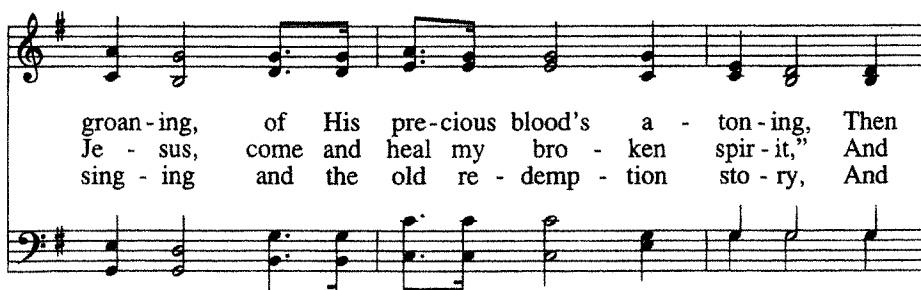
1. I heard an old, old sto - ry, how a Sav - ior came from  
2. I heard a - bout His heal - ing, of His cleans - ing pow'r re -  
3. I heard a - bout a man - sion He has built for me in



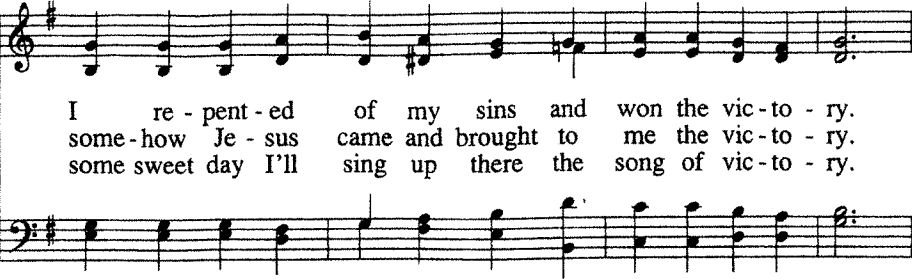
glo - ry, How He gave His life on Cal - va - ry to  
veal - ing, How He made the lame to walk a - gain and  
glo - ry, And I heard a - bout the streets of gold be -



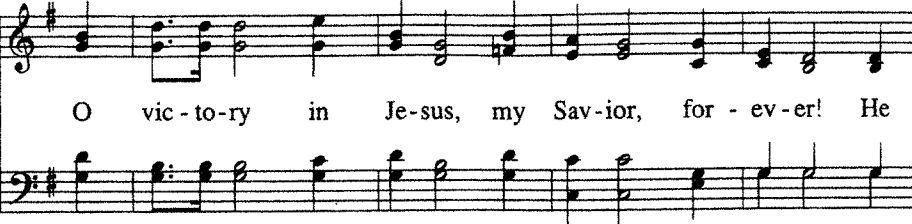
save a wretch like me; I heard a - bout His  
caused the blind to see; And then I cried, "Dear  
yond the crys - tal sea; A - bout the an - gels



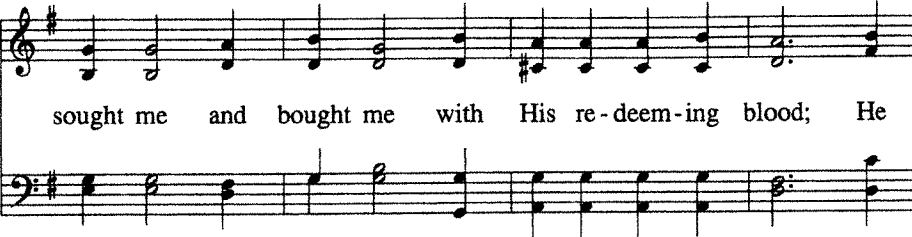
groan - ing, of His pre - cious blood's a - ton - ing, Then  
Je - sus, come and heal my bro - ken spir - it," And  
sing - ing and the old re - demp - tion sto - ry, And



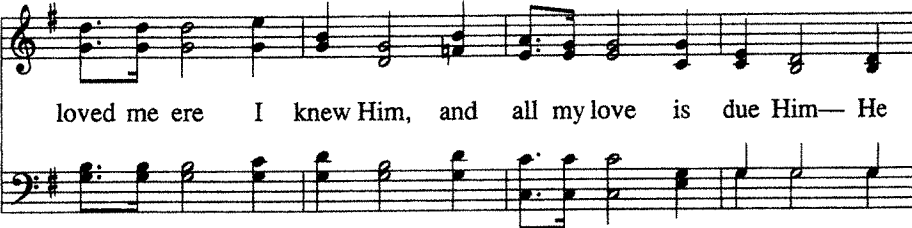
I re - pent - ed of my sins and won the vic - to - ry.  
some - how Je - sus came and brought to me the vic - to - ry.  
some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of vic - to - ry.



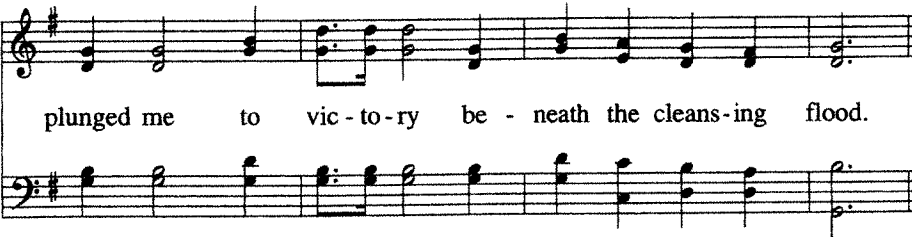
O vic - to - ry in Je - sus, my Sav - ior, for - ev - er! He



sought me and bought me with His re - deem - ing blood; He



loved me ere I knew Him, and all my love is due Him— He



plunged me to vic - to - ry be - neath the cleans - ing flood.

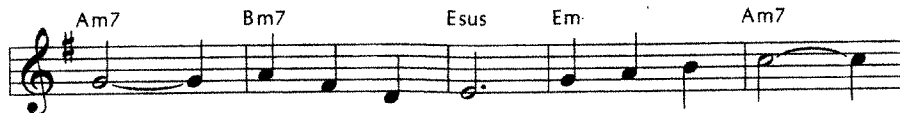


# Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

## Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for  
4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



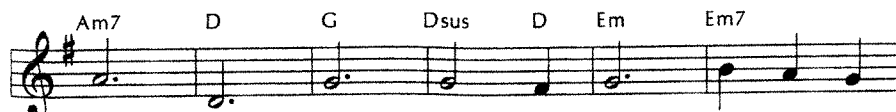
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.