

A musician friend of Uta said, "Music begins where words can no longer go." It is the expression of empowered emotion. Good composers have the ability to write - in little black dots and symbols on paper, like a scientific formula, - the feelings that we cannot reach inside our souls.

Music is not like a book - where every and every vision is described in details - music leaves room for our personal story to rise inside the sounds. We are not lost in someone else's world like a novel - we get lifted up and lost inside our own lives for a short while and we are blessed. We get to be in a little bit of heaven, experience our souls in a place that cannot be described - lifted up and away from the everyday, through song.

Uta also shared with me this weekend that hearing is the first sense developed fully in the womb and the last to go after our bodies die. That is why many continue to talk to their beloved after the last heart beats, believing that the ear and the electrodes in the brain continue to function for a while afterwards.

Pastoral Prayer

For all the expressions of your continued presence in our lives we thank you; for music and song, for listening and talking, for compassion and advocacy, for patience and forgiveness - for strength and for serenity, for joy and for rage - for all the emotions, feeling and decision that we make that are bits of you, we thank you this day.

We pray that your song will continue to be sung and to be received through the Holy Spirit for all those suffering today from illness, grief, confusion, and any kind of hindrance to knowing your providence and love. Be with all those who have closed their inner ear and can no longer hear your voice, that one day they will know the freedom that comes with trusting in you. IN Christ's name we pray, AMEN

Prayer Response

My Heart Ever Faithful

J. S. Bach

Theresa Roys, soprano

Offertory Sentence

Receiving.....(you put the usual words here)

His Eye is on the Sparrow

arr. Marilyn Ham

Berneice Eby, piano

Doxology

Offertory Prayer

Communion Hymn A Hymn of Joy We Sing

#404

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION & *WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

Jesus was a good Jewish man who had the ability to hear and see and feel what others around them needed to be whole, because he was so close to God - he had the Holy Spirit in him and made sure that those who follow him got this mystical touch of music in their souls as well. This vibration of love and mercy fills his life and ours, and we share this at this table when we eat the bread and drink from the cup. Grace abounds and fills our souls - come all who seek this touch of the holy! For . . .

On the night before he was arrested and sentenced to death by the authorities of his own nation, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you."

When supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to his Disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the covenant poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins."

And so we remember and proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING /PARTAKING OF THE BREAD & THE CUP/
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Going Forth and Benediction

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

Believe the good news of God's abounding love in Jesus Christ. Persons desiring to make their confession of faith in Christ and be baptized into his body, or to transfer membership to this congregation, or to renew their Christian commitment, are invited to come forward as we stand and sing our:

***Hymn of Commitment: *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* #5**

***BENEDICTION**

**Go - with a song in your heart and a new spirit of community and holiness
- sing a new song and be that song to all you meet . . . In the name . . .**

Postlude Hymn to Joy

Beethoven