

Week 1

I've been meaning to ask...
where are you from?

We Are Not Strangers

If you ask me where I'm from,
I'll tell you about the South—
about sweet tea, church pews,

slow drawls, sultry summers.
And if you pause,
then I may go on to tell you

how I'm from a family of preachers,
how I stand on the shoulders of generations
who believed that love could be the answer.

And if you're still listening even then,
I'll tell you that I'm from strong women
with tall spines who have carried the weight

of inequality on their backs with children on
their laps.

And then I'll tell you about
the kitchens that I'm from,

which have always cooked enough
food for unexpected guests—just in case.
Or I could tell you about the car

that carried us into the mountains,
summer after summer
so that we could breathe again.
That's part of where I'm from.

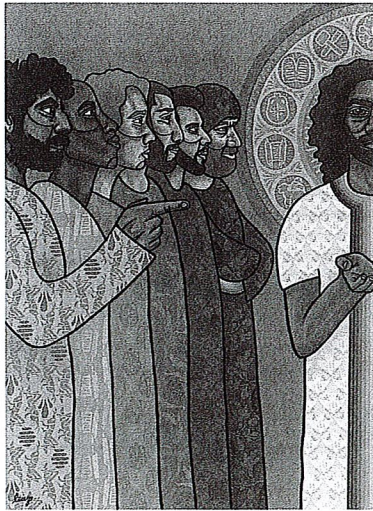
And if you haven't given up yet,
then I may even mention the dirt—
the earth that catches me,

the earth that holds me.
The earth that reminds me of growth.
The earth that will eventually welcome me home.

You and I aren't really strangers after all.



WRITTEN BY: REV. SARAH ARE | SANCTIFIEDART.ORG | 1



"Come & See" | Lauren Wright Pittman

First Presbyterian Church

IN
VICTOR

**WHOEVER YOU ARE.
HOWEVER YOU HAVE COME.
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.**

I've been
meaning
to ask...

where are you from?

First Presbyterian Church
70 East Main Street
Victor, NY 14564
585-924-2289
www.victorpres.org
Pastor Nick Dorland
Organist Ayn Patrowicz

Order of Worship **September 12, 2021, 10am**
16th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude “Amazing Grace” arr. by John Carter

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

We are from north and south.

We are from tiny apartments and expansive homes.

We are from this city and from others far away.

We are from big families and dinners made for one.

We are from stages of grief and stages of love.

We are from hot summers and cold winters.

We are from kitchens with passed down recipes,

and front porches with old, familiar swings.

**We are from the dust of the earth and the stars
of the sky.**

We are from a lot of places, but today we are here.

Today we are together.

Holy God, gather us in.

*Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Opening Hymn #289

“O God of Every Nation”

Responsive Prayer of Confession

When people heard that Jesus was from Nazareth, they asked,

“Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

**We confess, God of beginnings, that we have asked the
same question.**

Can anything good come from that side of town?

From a school with poor test scores?

From a criminal history?

From the opposite political party?

From a history of addiction?

From a faith with doubt?

From a church with faults?

**Holy God, forgive us for doubting that you are in all
things at all times.**

**Open our eyes to see your goodness, not as something
that resides here or there, but as the expansive grace
that it is.**

Can anything good come from there?

Yes. Always yes. Amen.

*Prayer by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Assurance of Pardon:

Family of faith, if you ever ask yourself,
“Can anything good come from this messy and
human life of mine?”

Remember this: God is always whispering, “Yes.”

You were created in the image of God.

Your origin story is one of goodness and love from the
very beginning.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

God is here. God is at work among us.

We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

*Prayer by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Gloria Patri #579

“Glory Be to the Father”

Moment for All Ages

Unison Prayer for Illumination

**Eternal God, in the reading of the Scripture, may your
Word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may
your Word be known; and in the faithfulness of our
lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.**

Scripture

John 1:35-51

The First Disciples of Jesus

35 The next day John again was standing with two of his
disciples, 36 and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed,
“Look, here is the Lamb of God!” 37 The two disciples heard
him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 When Jesus turned
and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you
looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated
means Teacher), “where are you staying?” 39 He said to them,
“Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and
they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in
the afternoon. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and
followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first
found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the
Messiah” (which is translated Anointed[a]). 42 He brought
Simon[b] to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon
son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated
Peter[c]).

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Scripture (cont.)

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." 46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." 49 Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." 51 And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, [d] you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Sermon "I've been meaning to ask...where are you from?"

Hymn of Response GTG #698 "Take O Take Me As I Am"

Statement of Ordination

*Profession of Faith:

L: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

L: Do you believe in God the Father?

A: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

A: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

L: Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit?

A: 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. Amen.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Constitutional Questions

(at the appropriate time the congregation responds with: "We do/will.")

Prayers of Ordination and Installation Declaration of Ordination and Installation

Amy Reinhardt

Offering Doxology

Unison Prayer of Dedication:

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to render to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you, not with our lips only, but with our whole lives, turning the duties, the sorrows, and the joys of all our days into a living sacrifice to you, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

God of North, South, East, and West,

I have been meaning to say... thank you.

Thank you for scooping up the dirt and breathing life into it.

Thank you for forming this body, this life, this world, these people.

Thank you for drawing us in, for holding us up, and for weaving us together—

even when it's hard, especially when it's hard.

If people ask, "Where are you from?" my mouth speaks of geography,

but my soul always sings your name.

So today we come to you in prayer with gratitude overflowing—gratitude for the places we've been, for the people who've shaped us, and for the spaces we call home.

But we also come to you with prayers on our hearts...

And so we ask you to scoop us up like you scooped up the dirt on that first day.

Hold our hearts alongside our worries.

Relieve us of this burden.

Protect us in the palm of your hand,

and draw us closer to one another as you do.

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O God of Every Nation

289

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Welsh folk melody
 Evans' *Hymnau a Thonau*, 1865
 As in *English Hymnal*, 1906

William W. Reid, Jr., 1958; alt. 1972

1. O God of ev - ery na - tion, Of ev - ery race and land,
 2. From search for wealth and pow - er And scorn of truth and right,
 3. Lord, strength-en those who la - bor That all may find re - lease
 4. Keep bright in us the vi - sion Of days when war shall cease,

Re - deem the whole cre - a - tion With Your al - might - y hand;
 From trust in bombs that show - er De - struction through the night,
 From fear of rat - tling sa - ber, From dread of war's in - crease;
 When ha - tred and di - vi - sion Give way to love and peace.

Where hate and fear di - vide us And bit - ter threats are hurled,
 From pride of race and sta - tion And blind - ness to Your way,
 When hope and cour - age fal - ter, Your still small voice be heard;
 Till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious When peace on earth shall reign

In love and mer - cy guide us And heal our strife - torn world.
 De - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, E - ter - nal God, we pray.
 With faith that none can al - ter, Your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 And Christ shall rule vic - to - rious O'er all the world's do - main.

O for a World

386

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

AZMON CM

Carl Gottlieb Gläser, 1828
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

1. O for a world where ev - ery-one Re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2. O for a world where goods are shared And mis - er - y re - lieved,
3. We wel-come one world fam - i - ly And strug - gle with each choice
4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, The fool - ish ones are wise.

Where love is lived and all is done With jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil-dren spared, E - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty And gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn; Out - casts be - long, Who per - ish - es will rise.

5. O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,

Where time and tears will be no more,
And all but love will cease.

Alternate version, 466

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