

ARCH STREET  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 1, 2024 /10:45 a.m.

**"We are God's lighthouse:  
a compassionate and inclusive community  
that welcomes everyone to join us as  
we do justice, promote equity,  
show kindness, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with God."**

*ASPC's Revised Mission Statement*

## Order of Worship

**Prelude**

J. Donald Dumpson

**Work of the Community**

Carla Jones Brown

**\*Song of Praise**      The Lord Is Blessing Me Right Now  
**The Lord is blessing me, right now, O right now.**  
**The Lord is blessing me, right now, O right now!**

Congregation

**He woke me up this morning, started me on my way.**  
**The Lord is blessing me, right now, O right now.**

### **Call to Worship**

**Leader:** Come, rejoice in what God is doing in our world!

**People:** **Come, be in awe of God our creator!**

**Leader:** God has given us hearts to love, bodies to live and breathe,  
souls to rejoice!

**People:** **God has made us, beautiful and wonderful beings!**

**Leader:** God has made the whole universe, and is continuing  
to make all things new;

**People:** **God is doing something new in our lives, right now.**

**Leader:** Come, join your hearts in worship of our magnificent Creator!

**People:** **Come, rejoice in our God!**

**\*Hymn** (*see insert*)

You Are Before Me, Lord

Congregation

### **Invitation to Tell The Truth**

#### **Prayer of Confession**

**Almighty One, we confess that at times we ignore You. We strive for our own ways, fulfilling our own desires, thinking that by the name of Christian we can get by, by the speaking of the right words we are saved. Our lives are too busy and there is too much going on for us, to really sink deeper into what we mean by what we say. Call us away from the temptation to make everything simple and instead, remind us of Your invitation to a deeper way of life. Draw us in to Your love, that transforms and changes us. Draw us in to a deeper love for one another, that transforms and changes the world. Lead us to a greater understanding of what it means to be saved, to save our neighbors from poverty and despair, to save this world from our own destruction, and to live into the fullness of Your love that is eternal. In Your name we pray.**

*A moment for silent reflection and confession*  
Leader: We entrust these prayers to you O God. Amen  
**All: Amen.**

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

**\*Passing the Peace** Amen, Amen, Amen! Congregation  
Leader: Peace of Christ be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**

**\*Sung Response of Thanksgiving** Thank You, Lord Congregation  
**Thank You Lord (3x), I just want to thank you Lord.**  
**Been So Good (3x), I just want to thank you Lord.**  
**Saved My Soul (3x) I just want to thank you Lord.**

**Scripture Reading** James 1:17-27 NRSV

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. <sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. <sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God  
**People: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** Gifts, Growth, and Good Deeds Carla Jones Brown

**Response to the Word** God of the Sparrow Congregation

**Prayers of the People and the 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.**

**\*Offering of Self**

**\*Offering Music**

**Benediction**

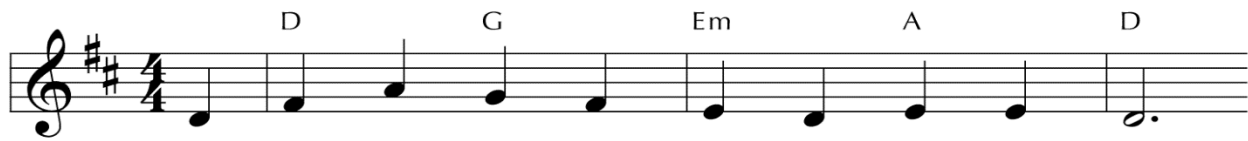
Carla Jones Brown

***\*Please stand as you are able.***

## 28

## You Are Before Me, Lord

(Psalm 139)



1 You are be - fore me, Lord, you are be - hind,  
 2 Then from your Spir - it where, Lord, shall I go;  
 3 If I should take my flight in - to the dawn,  
 4 If I should say, "Let dark - ness cov - er me,  
 5 Search me, O God; search me and know my heart;



and o - ver me you have spread out your hand;  
 and from your pres - ence where, Lord, shall I fly?  
 if I should dwell on o - cean's far - thest shore,  
 and I shall hide with - in the veil of night,"  
 try me, O God; my mind and spir - it try;



such knowl - edge is too won - der - ful for me,  
 If I as - cend to heav - en you are there,  
 your might - y hand will rest up - on me still,  
 sure - ly the dark - ness is not dark to you:  
 keep me from an - y path that gives you pain,



too high to grasp, too great to un - der - stand.  
 and still are with me if in hell I lie.  
 and your right hand will guard me ev - er - more.  
 the night is as the day, the dark - ness light.  
 and lead me in the ev - er - last - ing way.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

The effectiveness of this paraphrase of Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24 partly derives from its imitation of the characteristic repetitions that give emotional intensity to Hebrew poetry. Such patterns of repetitiveness can also be seen in the last three notes of each phrase of the tune.

# 22

## God of the Sparrow

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the  
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the  
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the  
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the  
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the  
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the

swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe  
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe  
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace  
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care  
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love  
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy

How does the crea - ture say Praise  
 How does the crea - ture cry Save  
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks  
 How does the crea - ture say Life  
 How does the crea - ture say Peace  
 How do your chil - dren say Home

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Though a lack of punctuation makes this text appear freeform and the flowing tune enhances a sense of movement, each stanza here is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world.

# James 1:17

I R T T U A X N L Z A L X R W Q E W L A W V B P  
Y K C Y D S H I F T I N G X H Y Q M O O R W F O  
I H E T K S Y V J S Q X F N O U E C Q K K U T D  
H W F E S K M N A F C L Z E S I P X H F Z A H N  
L S R H Z L O S R J H M Z O Z M W F V M E M E C  
V W E G I P R S X G G F G J C Z Y M T Z P F A O  
L I P H P C F Q F I X A V J Z P B D K K U N V A  
T U M O P R E P C F B T M B S A B O V E H A E G  
L K U C T Y G R O T S H U C O M I N G Z N P N V  
T T O N W X E K I L M E H X N W O D D N K S L V  
S M C M G O O D K V N R C R P A A L P B B B Y S  
U C R L K W V M D X D U Q E S R U D D U K M A H  
N W R E M U P F L H N T Z T N Z I R E U H R I A  
I T Q N O Y O T O X L A R P C Z Z N V O L H D D  
N T S F Y K H S P S I O S P O M X Y T S M D C O  
W D H Q S S F O R X G U X W I Y T V T D R J L W  
H N I W A I T R L M H S D S D S S A I Q G Z J S  
T A E I P S T N D D T K M W X Z E Q Y W T B G R  
Z J O C Y Y T A W X S U U F C W O I C T H E N B  
M F G Q N X W O X D X F Q Q O X D W X K M H E P  
V U V Z L J J M T Q R C Y R E V E J O H J R S S  
O V K H O G S E T H E V H Q H E B M C H Q D F W  
L D H S E I O N T H I C Q R P D M Y P O E S H I  
M A F T X T E C H A N G E A Z K U S A T V T L R

shifting  
lights  
above  
the  
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heavenly  
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Shadows  
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**WELCOME TO ARCH STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

We are grateful you have chosen to join us for worship. Arch Street Presbyterian Church has a rich history and a vital future before it. We aim to be an inviting, caring, and committed congregation in the heart of Center City Philadelphia. If you wish to learn more about this congregation or get involved at a deeper level, please reach out to us via our website. Someone from our pastoral staff will reply to you. You can also find more information about us at [www.archstreetpres.org](http://www.archstreetpres.org).