Falling in Love with Jesus

Genesis 8:22 - “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” - NIV

In the article Why Do We Call the Seasons Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter?, author Daven Hiskey said that the season of autumn was probably called fall because of the foliage that pleasantly descends from trees during this time of the year. It is also during the fall when the daylight hours wane and the outdoor temperature also begins to drop as well. The month of October is the first full month of the autumn season and a joyous time of the year leading ever closer to the season that we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Sticking with the idea of falling, in 2002, gospel music recording artist Jonathan Butler released a melodic jazz based gospel song entitled “Falling in Love with Jesus.” In this song he proclaims that “falling in love with Jesus was the best thing I’ve ever done.” What a beautiful statement to make to the sound of music as a Christian! What a wonderful acknowledgement to make as a Child of God! And what a wonderful thought to embrace and celebrate as we watch the colors of the leaves change, experience the days get shorter, and feel the brisk breeze of the autumn wind. Falling in love with Jesus... what a gracious thought to keep in mind as we experience this season!

The scripture listed above from Genesis 8:22 reminds us that as long as there is a planet earth, the transition from one season to the next and the transition that happens every 24 hours will remain. Here is yet another sign of God’s amazing grace right before our eyes, a sign that is so present and familiar to us that we often take it for granted. Yet it is indeed a sign of amazing grace that allows us the circle of life to perpetuate. And this is evidence that God’s desire for humanity is to flourish by receiving new mercies daily, weekly, monthly, seasonally, annually, and beyond! So as we make the leap from shorts to pants, pull out our sweaters and jackets, and start cooking those soups and stews, let us give thanks and honor to God through Jesus Christ for a God who loves us so much, that we are even reminded of such love during the natural transitions of our environment! And as the weather begins to cool off outside, may our hearts continue to remain aflame for Christ, our church, our families, and our community that emanates from the love of Jesus! Because the Lord died for our sins that we might have eternal life, falling in love with Jesus is truly the best thing any of us could ever do!

Pastor Delano Douglas
Country Christian Breakfast
October 13th, 9a

Next Youth Group meeting...
Sunday October 27th

Worship Committee Meeting
Sunday 10/13, 12p

Friday October 11th, 5p
Grab your best peeler and join the party!

Sunday Morning Greeters
October

6- Dot Moyers & J.W. Simon
13- Marie & Troy Barnett
20- Louise Madison
27- Ann Benson

CHARGE CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9th
7:30p @ WBUMC
Please plan to attend in support of your church!

Brunswick Stew
$9/Quart
$25/3 Quarts

Taking orders now!

Pick up
Saturday
10/12
11a
The church office will begin working on updating the directory for 2020/2021. If you would like to be included in the new church directory, please see the bulletin insert in the weekly bulletin, fully and legibly fill out the form, and place in the offering plate or return to the church office NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 3RD.
Cook's Corner

**Chicken, Sausage & Peppers**

- 2 Tbsp unsalted butter
- 3/4 lb sweet or hot Italian sausage, cut into chunks
- 3/4 lb Skinless, boneless chicken breasts, cut into chunks
- Kosher salt & fresh ground pepper
- 1 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 Italian green frying peppers, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 3 cloves garlic, roughly chopped
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 3/4 cup low-sodium chicken broth
- 1/4 cup roughly chopped fresh parsley
- 2 jarred pickled cherry peppers, chopped, plus 2 Tbsp liquid from the jar

1. Heat 1 Tbsp butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook the sausage until golden, about 2 mins. Season the chicken with salt and pepper, then toss with the flour in a bowl; add to the skillet and cook until browned but not cooked through, about 3 min.

2. Add the onion, peppers, garlic, 1/2 tsp salt and pepper to taste and cook 3 mins. Add the wine, scraping up any browned bits; bring to a boil and cook until slightly reduced, about 1 min. Add broth and bring to a gentle simmer. Cover and cook until sausage and chicken are cooked through, about 5 mins.

3. Transfer the chicken, sausage and vegetables to a platter with a slotted spoon. Increase the heat to high and stir the parsley and cherry peppers and their liquid into the skillet; boil until reduced by one-third, 2 to 3 min. Remove from the heat and stir in remaining 1 Tbsp butter. Pour the sauce over the chicken mixture.

If you’d like to share a recipe, please submit it to the Church Office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Save the Dates!**

11/2 – Volunteer Opportunity at Hopkins EMS, 8a
11/10 – Country Christian Breakfast, 9a
11/24 – Stewardship Sunday
11/26 – Community Thanksgiving Service
11/28 – Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed

WBUMC Choir Presents

TAKE ME BACK TO BETHLEHEM

Sunday December 15th
11 a.m.
When was the last time you were totally exhausted? I remember preaching three times on Sunday morning and being so tired that all I wanted was my “lazy-boy.” I remember telling someone in one of my churches that I would be less tired if I chopped wood. A few weeks later I heard someone say, “I heard you’d rather chop wood than preach.” That wasn’t what I said at all! I was trying to say that preaching is hard work and I would be less tired if I chopped wood. In I Kings 19, the prophet Elijah found himself depleted in every way. Queen Jezebel threatened to have him killed after she discovered he had the prophets of Baal killed. Elijah ran away and prayed that he would die (19:3-4) and he laid down. An angel touched him and told him to get up and eat. He was strengthened by the food God provided and he “traveled forty days and forty nights” until he came to a cave. (19: 9-18) He was refreshed and was able to do the work God had for him to do. Sometimes we may need to be encouraged in the Lord. It may come when we talk to another believer, sing a worship song, pray or read God’s Word. Eating the food God supplies may mean “real” food, it might also mean “spiritual” food. In my case it meant something to drink and about 45 minutes of quiet time in my “lazy-boy.” Then, I was refreshed and could go on. Are you ever “exhausted?” Give your burdens to the Lord and you will be refreshed. God always gives us the strength to do what he has called us to do. God will supply food and rest for us and he will help carry our load!

I Kings 19:5 –An angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.”

Author: Tommy Herndon
Hymn Story: “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Sent forth by God’s blessing,  
one true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling  
take leave.  

The service is ended,  
O now be extended  
The fruits of our worship in all who  
believe.  

The seeds of the teaching,  
Receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and  
for all.  

God’s grace did invite us,  
And love shall unite us  
To work for God’s kingdom and  
answer the call.  

The Catholic hymn from 1964 was written to direct the congregation out into the world as they depart the sanctuary. A song about transition, it was also written at a time of great transition. On December 4, 1963, less than a year earlier, the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) released a document called Sacrosanctum Concilium. Best known for allowing the use of the vernacular language in Mass, it also encouraged the use of congregational music—psalms, response, and even hymns—to increase the participation and unity of the whole church. It flung open the doors of Catholic worship and practice, elevating and blessing local expressions of tradition, encouraging the involvement of all believers, and focusing that involvement both in the church and outside its walls (Harmon, 4, 32).

No event, however, especially one this large, is the result of a single moment. Even before the council was convened, ideas about different ways to live their faith and traditions were welling up in Catholic laity and clergy. Omer Westendorf (1916-1997), organist and choirmaster at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in Cincinnati and author of this hymn alongside other familiar hymns of this era such as “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” (The United Methodist Hymnal, 629) and “Where Charity and Love Prevail” (The United Methodist Hymnal, 549), a translation of the classic Latin hymn “Ubi Caritas,” was one such lay Catholic who was hard at work spreading new music (Young and Watson, n.p.). Inspired by a trip to Holland, Westendorf started the Word Library of Sacred Music (Now World Library Public Nations) in his garage in Cincinnati in 1950 to bring European music to America (NPM staff, 8). He published The People’s Hymnal (1955), the first hardbound English hymnal to be used in the Mass (Harmon, 13; Hommerding, 18), either years before Sacrosanctum Concilium!

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What began with a trickle of Catholic authors writing music in their vernacular language for their local situations became a massive flood of hymns and liturgies with the release of the *Sacrosanctum Concilium*. It gave permission for dramatic change in the liturgy because of pastoral concerns, as seen in its opening lines from which it also takes its name:

> The Sacred Council (literally *Sacrosanctum Concilium*) has several aims in view: it desires to impart an ever increasing vigor to the Christian life of the faithful; to adopt more suitably to the needs of our own times those institutions which are subject to change; to foster whatever can promote union among all who believe in Christ; to strengthen whatever can help to call the whole of mankind into the household of the Church. (SC §1)

To these ends, it focuses on the liturgy, “The summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed,” (SC §10) and the “full and active participation by all the people” in that liturgy and liturgical life (SC §14). It calls for education of clergy and laity, reforms of the rites, calendar, and daily worship schedules of Catholic life, and allows for the use of local cultural music and instruments, and the use of the common tongue alongside the traditional use of Latin, Gregorian chant and organs.

Most important, for “*Sent Forth by God’s Blessing*,” it also calls for “composers [who], filled with the Christian spirit, should feel that their vocation is to cultivate sacred music and increase its store of treasures” (SC §121). With the experience, publisher, and connections needed, Westendorf moved quickly to answer that call. In 1964, less than a year after the *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the *People’s Hymnal* was transformed to the *People’s Mass Book*, and expanded with settings for the mass and newly-written, specifically Catholic hymns. In those pre-internet days, it was quite hard to gather authors so quickly. When even a visit to the Catholic Poetry Society’s convention garnered little response–hymns were too lowly and perhaps too Protestant an art form–Westendorf and a few colleagues set to work themselves. To disguise their paltry numbers, they took to using a variety of pen names (Hommerding 200, 18). Westendorf used at least five: Paul Francis, J. Clifford Evers, Mark Evans, and Anthony and Michael Solano (Hommerding, 18). Despite this initial unenthusiastic reception among congregations, the *People’s Mass Book* sold over two million copies in three years and was instrumental in introducing ecumenical hymnody to its Roman Catholic audience (Young and Watson, n.p.).

“*Sent Forth by God’s Blessing*” is in many ways the direct child of the *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, not only by its very existence, but in its contents and usage. This is a bit clearer in its original text, much of which has been adapted for a more ecumenical and modern audience. The original text refers to the Eucharist, part of every mass, by noting “God’s sacrifice ended.” Some have adapted this to “the supper is ended.” Others, including *The United Methodist Hymnal*, avoid the reference to the Eucharist altogether and have changed the phrase to “The service is ended.” Most non-Catholics wouldn’t find much familiar in singing about “the fruits of this Mass” which adapted to “the fruits of our worship.”

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The original text, however, consists of almost direct quotations from the papal document itself (People’s Mass Book, 1964). The second stanza’s focus on the unity of a people who were fed together, and now live “as one in this life that we share” for the purpose of “God’s children of each tribe and race” also reflects the unifying and evangelistic purpose to the reforms. The metaphor of seeds blossoming in “receptive souls” echoes the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-23), conforming to the instruction to “[draw] chiefly from holy scripture and from liturgical sources” (SC §121).

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” also faithfully follows the directions of the Council to direct attention and “proper dispositions” to the liturgical (SC §11). Singing a closing hymn following the Eucharist was initiated with Vatican II. This new practice served to extend the rather terse traditional closing, “It missa est” (the Mass is ended), and provide a direction for the assembly as they conclude the liturgy.

It has a distinct place within the liturgy as a sending hymn, and it sums up what has happened in that liturgy and its purpose as the congregation moves out into the world. It balances neatly between the world within the church walls where God’s word is planted and the world without where that word grows by actions out of the good soil of our hearts.

Westendorf’s choice of music helps this movement. ASH GROVE, an upbeat and flowing Welsh harp tune already familiar to many when it was paired with the popular text “Let All Things Now Living” by Katherine K. David (1892-1980) as an anthem, sends people out energized and encouraged for action (Westermeyer, 382).

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” is a song that moves the church forward in daily life and in history. As the effects of the second Vatican Council have spread over the world, bringing new life and vigor (and challenges) to the whole Christian world, it calls for us to be sent forth as well, empowered to change the world we meet outside our doors.

[https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-sent-forth-by-gods-blessing]
Attention Walmsley Boulevard United Methodist Church Hoops Fans!! Pastor D is coaching the Providence Middle School Girls Basketball Team!! Want to watch the team play? See the October Game Schedule below!!

All Game Times are 2:30 PM

Tuesday, Oct. 1st at Manchester Middle

Thursday, Oct 3rd vs Tomahawk Creek Middle

Tuesday, Oct. 8th at Carver Middle School

Thursday, Oct 10th vs Falling Creek Middle School

Tuesday, Oct. 15th at Matoaca Middle School

Thursday, Oct 17th vs. Midlothian Middle School

Tuesday, Oct. 22nd at Bailey Bridge Middle School

Thursday, Oct 24th vs. Swift Creek Middle School

Tuesday, Oct. 29th at Elizabeth Davis Middle School
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