

PRELUDE

CALL to WORSHIP ~

*If I Could, I'd Write for You a Rainbow  
In honor of the first day of Spring*

by Ann Weems

If I could, I'd write for you a rainbow  
And splash it with all the colors of God  
And hang it in the window of your being.  
So that each new God's morning  
Your eyes would open first to Hope and Promise.  
If I could, I'd wipe away your tears.  
And hold you close forever in shalom.  
But God never promised  
I could write a rainbow,  
Never promised I could suffer for you,  
Only promised I could love you.  
That I do.

OPENING PRAYER

God of rhyme and rhythm; God who is there in the ordinary and extraordinary moments; God who connects us *even* when we cannot be together, we give thanks for this moment of worship. We come to You with so many thoughts and emotions, we cannot even put into words. We come to You recognizing the traces of grace even in these days. Phone calls where the sound of another's voice brought care and comfort over the fiber optic lines. Emails chains where we could share with each other. Television shows that could transport us away from this chaos of this time for a few moments. God, You call us to love with our whole being now more than ever. Meet us in the fear, frustration, dis-ease, and questioning. Meet us in the moments we are uncertain. Meet us in the moments when we do find peace. Meet us in the still, small silence where together we might feel Your presence as close as our next breath. Thank you, O God, for this time to worship. Amen.

CONTEMPORAY READING

OUR ENCOUNTER with SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:28-34

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup> you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." <sup>32</sup> Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; <sup>33</sup> and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." <sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he answered

wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

## SERMON

### MUSICAL INTERLUDE

#### God's Eye Is on the Sparrow

**Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,  
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,  
When God is ever my portion? My constant friend will be;  
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;  
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.  
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.**

**Let not your heart be troubled, Christ's tender word I hear,  
And resting on God's goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
Though by the path God leads me but one step I may see;  
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;  
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.  
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.**

### INTERCESSORY PRAYER for HEALING

Each prayer petition will conclude with the response:

**One:** Christ in your mercy.

**Many:** Hear our prayer.

### SUNG 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.**

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE