

Flowers are given by Vonda Leonard in memory of her sister, **Opal Hawkins Watkins**, and cousin, **Daryl W. Hawkins**.

PRELUDE

*Aria*

Paul Manz

LIGHTING a CANDLE:

OPENING HYMN:

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

No. 23

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.  
There's no place where early sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven;  
there's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.**

**For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;  
and our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.**

OPENING PRAYER:

**God, we love to be right. We all want to be on the winning team in the game of life. Secretly, in our hearts, we have a score card with points, proving to others our wisdom. Even compassion can be a competition when we start talking about volunteer hours or generosity. Help us, O God. Like the lawyer in the scripture today, we want to justify and judge ourselves as worthy. As the cliché goes, "We want mercy for ourselves and justice for everyone else." During this season of Lent, refashion and reform, renew and restore our hearts to continue to be open to You, O God. For Your love is unconditional and unceasing *and* changes everything. In the name of the One who tells stories about compassion comes in challenging way, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE

*There is a Balm in Gilead*

No. 553

**There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,  
there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.**

OUR ENCOUNTER with SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:25-42

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup> He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having

poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

## SERMON

MUSICAL INTERLUDE to PRAYER: *They Asked "Who's My Neighbor?"* No. 541

**They asked, "Who's my neighbor and whom should I love;  
for whom should I do a good deed?"**

**Then Jesus related a story and said, "It's anyone who has a need,  
yes, anyone who has a need."**

**There once was a traveler set on by thieves who beat him and left him to die;  
A priest and a Levite each saw him in pain; but they turned away and walked by,  
yes, they turned away and walked by.**

**A certain Samaritan then came along to bind up his wounds and give aid;  
He took him to stay at an inn until well, and for all the service he paid,  
yes, for all the service he paid.**

**I know who's my neighbor and whom I should love,  
for whom I should do a good deed.**

**For Jesus made clear in the story he told, it's anyone who has a need,  
yes, anyone who has a need.**

## PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER (*Sung*)

**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.**

CLOSING HYMN *Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior* No. 551

**Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry;  
While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.**

*Refrain:* **Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;  
While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.**

**Let me at your throne of mercy find a sweet relief;  
Kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief. (*Refrain*)**

**Trusting only in your merit, would I seek your face;  
Heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by your grace. (*Refrain*)**

## BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Chaconne* Louis Couperin