Latey I have been thinking about hymns. Like many of you, I grew up singing them with gusto in church and in Sunday school. The ideas we learn in them about God and about who we are are invaluable. Music is meant to lift our spirits to true experiences of God’s presence and also become an anchor in the difficult times we all have.

There are a few hymns written by women. One of the most cherished pieces of sacred music we have is a song called, “Just As I Am.” It was penned by Charlotte Elliott, who lived in Brighton, England from 1789-1871. From a very young age, she had significant health issues which were debilitating. She endured great physical pain, which could often cause emotional and spiritual suffering as well. As an adult, she struggled with feeling like she wasn’t worth anything to God. She was a strong Christian who saw people doing good ministry all around her, and she longed to take part in it fully as well. She began to be distressed by her lack of usefulness, which spiraled her into questioning the reality of her whole spiritual life. As she was wrestling and praying, she decided to write down ‘the formula of her faith.’

“Just As I Am” has became the standard hymn for altar calls and a staple for Billy Graham’s crusades years later. It is a beautiful poem about the best thing we can offer the Lord. What an incredible reminder of how we never know what can come from the hardships and sorrows in our lives.

I pray all of you are well. Let us keep working through the struggles we have and see how God will use them to bless others.

~Pastor Colleen
Lent

In this time of Lent, we look to the Lord in a time of repentance and examining our hearts. Here is a short prayer from the 8th century:

Almighty God, grant that we who deserve to be afflicted for our evil deeds may mercifully be relieved by the comfort of your grace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Easter

All are welcome to join the Free Methodist Church in worship on Easter, which is Sunday, April 4th this year. You can join us Under The Tent outside on our campus at 8:30am and 10:30am. Or you can find us on YouTube every Sunday. Just type in Free Methodist Santa Barbara.

Just As I Am

Here are a few of those beloved verses:

Just as I am – without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – though toss’d about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Dial-A-Prayer

Friends! We look forward to connecting with you each week on the phone. Give us a call if you want to chat about anything and pray. We love talking with you.
Pastor Colleen: (805) 259-8461
Pastor Nikki: (949) 241-7851
In these isolating times, we want to hear what is going on in your lives. Let’s talk!
Wasn’t it Smart of God to... (Con’t)

...“wire” humans with an uncanny ability to communicate with body motions, such as shaking the head side to side to mean no, up and down to mean yes, and combined with a tilt of the head, lifting of shoulders and hands and eyebrows, to mean “Whatevah!”

...make us unable to tickle ourselves so we can wash the bottoms of our feet and under our arms without uncontrollable laughter.

...create the human strong and efficient enough to walk, on average, the equivalent of five times around the equator in a normal lifetime. (Half that distance is probably accumulated during round-trip treks from the TV room to the refrigerator.)

...give us the capacity to breathe around 23,400 times in a 24-hour period without giving it a lot of thought.

...make our bodies able to feel pain as a warning that we’re hurt and give us tears so others know we’re not kidding.

...make the palms of our hands flat so we can write notes to ourselves on them - and give us the ability to fold our hands when we don’t want anyone to know what we wrote.

...give us fingernails on both hands so we can clean under the fingernails on both hands.

...put trees on the earth that mankind can use to make paper on which he can make designs for buildings that he can build using the trees he didn’t use for making paper.

(Taken from: Wasn’t It Smart of God to... by Steve Chapman)