

## Just as I Am, without One Plea

Charlotte Elliott (1789 – 1871)

Charlotte Elliot suffered much. In 1821, in her 32<sup>nd</sup> year, with a half-century of life as an invalid yet to come, she bore an illness that had caused permanent and debilitating physical weakness.



Thirteen years later, the burden approached the unbearable. While the rest of the town and her family busied themselves preparing for a community bazaar to raise funds to establish St. Mary's Hall, a school for the daughters of clergymen, she lay alone in her room, unable to

help. This was especially distressing to her, as Julian summarized from an 1897 newspaper account by Elliot's relative Handley Carr Glyn Moule, principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge, and later Bishop of Durham:

“The night before the bazaar she was kept wakeful by distressing thoughts of her apparent uselessness; and these thoughts passed – by a transition easy to imagine – into a spiritual conflict, ‘til she questioned the reality of her whole spiritual life . . . The next day, the busy day of the bazaar . . . the troubles of the night came back upon her with such force that she felt they must be met and conquered in the grace of God. She gathered up in her soul the grand certainties, not of her emotions, but of her salvation: her Lord, His power, His promise. And taking pen and paper from the table, she deliberately set down in writing for her own comfort ‘the formulae of her faith.’ . . . So in verse she restated to herself the Sospel of pardon, peace, and heaven.”

When Elliott died, more than a thousand letters thanking her for this hymn were found. Her brother's memorable testimony to the hymn's power and influence reads, “In the course of a long ministry, I hope I have been permitted to see some fruit of my labours; but I feel far more has been done by a single hymn of my sister's.”

## Lent – Week 3

Thursday, March 17, 2022 – 7:00pm

### “Be Forgiven”

**Opening Hymn: LSB 570 (vs. 1-3) "Just as I Am, without One Plea"**

Pastor: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.  
**People: Amen.**

Pastor: It is good to give thanks to the Lord.  
**People: to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;**

Pastor: to herald Your love in the morning,  
**People: Your truth at the close of the day.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Pastor: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen  
**People: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen**

**People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen

### Call to Worship

Pastor: For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written:

**People: “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”**

Pastor: Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for  
**People: “The righteous shall live by faith.”**

Pastor: But the law is not of faith, rather  
**People: “The one who does them shall live by them.”**

Pastor: Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us – for it is written. .  
**People: Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.”**

Pastor: so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.” *(Galatians 3:10-14)*

**First Reading: Acts 9:4-9, 15-19**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Epistle Reading: Ephesians 4:25-32**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 6:32-36**

**Hymn: LSB 563 "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"**

**SERMON “Be Forgiven”**

**Prayers For the Body of Christ**

Pastor: Hear my prayer, O Lord;  
**People: listen to my cry.** *(Psalm 102:1)*

Pastor: Keep me as the apple of Your eye;  
**People: hide me in the shadow of Your wings.** *(Psalm 17:8)*

Pastor: In righteousness I shall see You;  
**People: when I awake, Your presence will give me joy.** *(Psalm 17:15)*

Pastor: O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then Lord, in Your mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**People: O Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Be our light in darkness, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers; for the love of Your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**People: O Lord, have mercy.**

**(A Moment of Silent Prayer)**

Pastor: Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair, the night when death draws near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever.  
**People: O Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promise, we are bold to pray:

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Holy Communion**

Pastor: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.  
**People: Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev’ry people: a light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.**

**Benediction**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord watch over you and protect you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
**People: Amen**

**Closing Hymn: LSB 570 (vs. 4-6) "Just as I Am, without One Plea"**