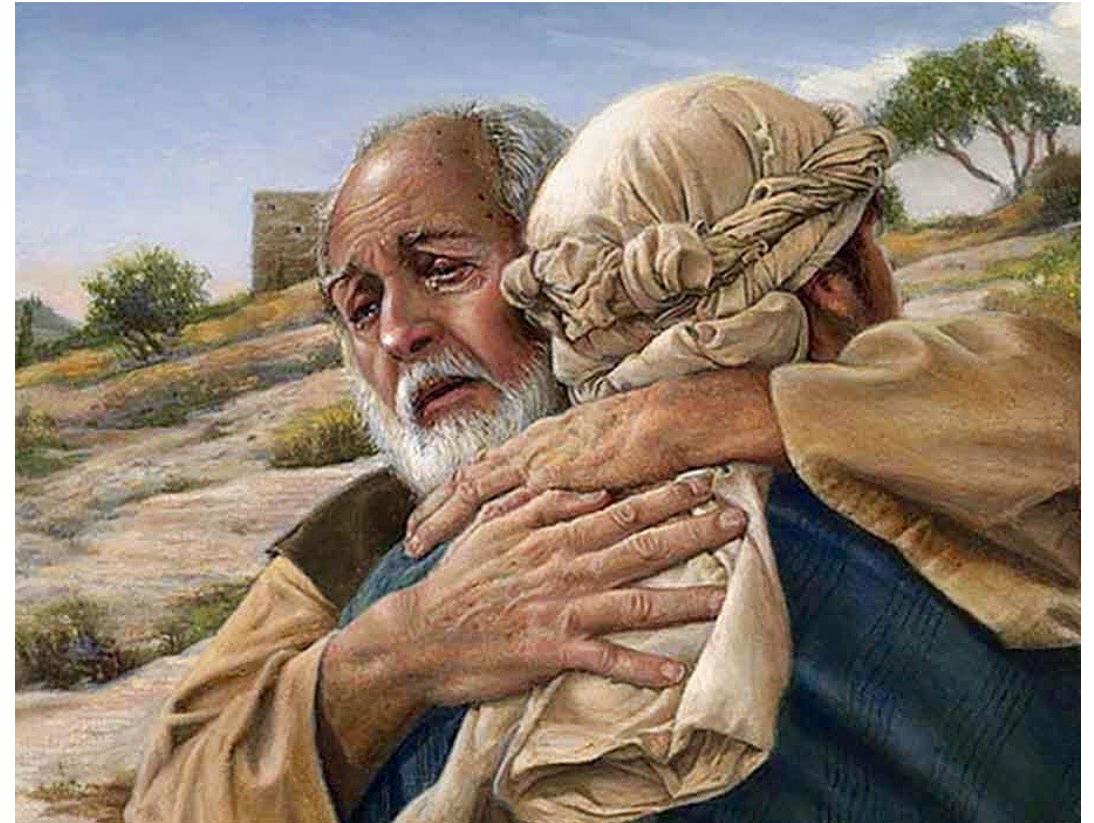


First Presbyterian Church

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According to Smithsonian Folklife historians, this Spiritual originated among southern Black communities and was first recorded for folklife archives in 1926. Initially, authorship of the song was claimed by a white songwriter, while others attributed the song to Africa. But researchers believe that it was first sung by African American slaves; the dialect of the Gullah people of North Carolina rendered the English "Come by here" as "Come by yah," which became transliterated to Kum By Yah. The song is a plaintive call for God's presence, with each verse describing some reason why God needs to "Come by here, come by here...O Lord, come by here."

Kum By Yah became extremely popular during the folk revival of the late '50s and early '60s. This spiritual is much loved by many people. But it has fallen on hard times of late. As a folksong historian notes, the once-popular song experienced a backlash: "Musically, it came to be thought of as a children's campfire song, too simple or too silly for adults to bother with. Politically, it became shorthand for weak consensus-seeking that fails to accomplish crucial goals. Socially, it came to stand for the touchy-feely, the wishy-washy, the nerdy, and the meek. These recent attitudes toward the song are unfortunate, since the original is a beautiful example of traditional music, dialect, and creativity. However, the song's recent fall from grace has at least added some colorful metaphors to American political discourse, such phrases as 'to join hands and sing 'Kumbaya,' which means to ignore our differences and get along (albeit superficially), and 'Kumbaya moment,' an event at which such naïve bonding occurs."



Pastor - Rev. Dr. Christina Berry

Ministers - All the People

March 27, 2022

God's People Gather

Welcome

Threshold Moment

Response I Want Jesus To Walk With Me

*Opening Song Kum By Yah

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you are like the loving father in the parable, who waits and watches for your children to return to you, always ready to forgive and welcome. We know that all too often we are like the greedy son, taking whatever we can get from you and spending it all on ourselves and our own desires. Just as often, we are like the angry brother, unwilling to forgive, jealous of others, and begrudging of your grace. Forgive us and heal us, gracious God. Help us to let go of shame and anger and open our hearts to your embrace, so that we can joyfully join the celebration you prepare for us when we return to our heart's true home – the home we find in you alone. It is in the name of Jesus Christ, that we pray. Amen.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, Saint Augustine prayed, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." Hear and believe the good news: once we were "dead" to all the things that God hoped for us; but in God's love we are again brought to life. In God's grace, all that was lost is found. Our restless hearts have come home. Rejoice, friends, for you are forgiven!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

*Response

Peace Song

God's Word is Proclaimed

Children's Time

Scripture Readings

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Sermon

Coming Home

Responding to God's Word

Offering

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

God's People Are Sent

*Closing Song

God's Great Love

*Benediction

Leader: And let all God's People say...

People: Alleluia, Amen!

*Response

Walk With Me This Day, Lord

Postlude

