**Reflections on Psalm 51:1,6,10 & 15**

Our relationship with God is ever growing. The fullness of God’s love calls us, encourages us, corrects us, heals us and guides us.

**Lord, we welcome you to the deepest place in our souls that we might join you in holiness and hear you whisper words of truth.**

(Words about repentance)

Repentance is not about guilt although it may lead to the desire for change.

Repentance is about claiming or reclaiming a right relationship with God.

Repentance is not about feeling bad about yourself but rather feeling blessed by what God created you to be.

Repentance is about accepting Christ’s invitation to walk through the temptation that leads to spiritual death, toward the life that God has in store for us.

Repentance is how we return to our true self after having been away.

Psalm 51:1 “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

**according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions”**

Is there a part of your life that is in need of God’s mercy? What is Christ’s light inviting you to walk through?

(Silent reflection)

Spirit of God, who dwells within our hearts, renew us to love you as you intended.

MBW Hymn 490 v 1&4 Tune: MORECAMBRE

Spirit of God, who dwells within my heart,

Wean it from sin, through all its pulses move.

Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are,

And make me love you as I ought to love.

Teach me to love you as your angels love,

One holy passion filling all my frame;

The baptism of the heav’n descended dove;

My heart an alter and your love the flame.

TEXT: George Croly (1867), alt.

TUNE: Frederick Cook Atkinson (1870)

Psalm 51:6 “You desire truth in the inward being;

**therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.”**

You begin with a divine DNA, an absolute core that knows the truth about you, a blueprint tucked away in the cellar of your being that begs to be allowed, to be fulfilled, and to show itself. As it says in Romans ([5:5](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=0015r8aIYAsmm8sBK9XmWP26itp9rwcXcQDPBECSBKb1R9J08v5BJbPzrwioZyicLCRn9DdAM2BGs-eFxREPM7oj69u9loOgO1OMx1IkToD7pMEBrb4URWybGp9-SSfQ-a6TNkom55sBEKDVk3vZ-quolQKJhSpPXsaBZZeTFOVFRn2kCmXbyVYOxyC9NytFmyv3t0HSrwCAa9FvSNjJwJLKA==)), “It is the Holy Spirit poured into your heart, and it has been given to you.”

It cannot be hidden by the false messages that we hold about ourselves.

What are the false messages I impose upon myself? What truth does God wish to gift my life with?

(Silent Reflection)

Come, let us all with gladness raise a joyous song of thanks and praise to God who rules and heavenly host, God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

MBW Hymn 519 v 4&5 Tune: FREUEN WIR UNS

Father in Heav’n, fulfill your word;

grant us the spirit of our Lord

that through your truth, which cannot fail,

We may o’re ev’ry ill prevail.

And in your love may we abide

Estranged from non by wrath or pride,

Among ourselves at unity

And with all else in charity

TEXT: Matthew of Kunwald (1457) or Gabriel Komarovsky (1467).
Tr. Michael Weisse (1531); tr. Evelyn Renatus Hasse (1911), alt.

TUNE: Michael Weisse (1531), alt.

Psalm 51:10 “Create in me a clean heart, O God

**and put a new and right spirit within me.”**

Our minds are so often in charge of our lives that we approach life, as well as God from the perspective of self-affirmation. But there have been moments when our hearts were pure and the spirit within us led us to a time of spiritual growth. This growth was not something we planned on or tried to make happen. In fact, it probably caught us off guard. It was all God’s doing because our mind was not in charge and our heart was ready to receive it

When you consider how you have grown spiritually, what has been your greatest growth?

(Silent Reflection)

Lord, sustain us with a willing spirit.

MBW p. 79 Tune: CLEAN HEART

 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

 Cast me not away from your presence, take not your Holy Spirit from me.

 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 51:15 “O Lord, open my lips,

**and my mouth will declare your praise.**

Within each of us is a pearl of great price; a treasure hidden in a field. It is the truth of God within. When we find it we are willing to give up everything in order that it might become part of everything we are; everything we do. It fills us so fully that it overflows into the world around us. We cannot keep it to ourselves.

What do you want the world to know about God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

(Call out your response)

Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice in our singing and in our witness.

 MBW Hymn 330 Tune: NICAEA [144C]

 Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty!

 Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;

 holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

 God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,

 casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

 cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,

 God everlasting through eternity.

 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,

 though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,

 only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,

 perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

 Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty!

 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

 Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

 God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

TEXT: Reginald Heber (1826), alt.

TUNE: John B. Dykes (1861)

*Liturgy by The Rev. Rick Beck; used with permission. Moravian congregations may use this liturgy and the accompanying hymns for in-person and streaming services during lent 2021. For more information, e-mail pubs@mcnp.org*