

Not So, Not So (Anne Sexton)

I cannot walk an inch
without trying to walk to God. I cannot move a finger without trying to touch God.

Perhaps it is this way:
He is in the graves of the horses.
He is in the swarm, the frenzy of the bees. He is in the tailor mending my pantsuit.
He is in Boston, raised up by the skyscrapers. He is in the bird, that shameless flyer.
He is in the potter who makes clay into a kiss.

Heaven replies: Not so! Not so!

I say thus and thus
and heaven smashes my words.

Is not God in the hiss of the river? Not so! Not so!

Is not God in the ant heap,
stepping, clutching, dying, being born?

Not so! Not so!
Where then?
I cannot move an inch.
Look to your heart
that flutters in and out like a moth. God is not indifferent to your need.
You have a thousand prayers
but God has one.

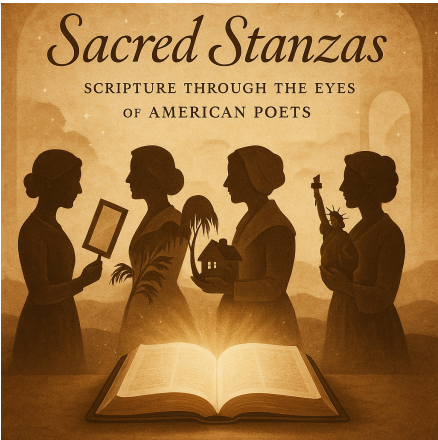
"There is no pit so deep,
that God's love is not deeper still."
-Corrie ten Boom

"We must accept finite disappointment
but never lose infinite hope."
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I say to God, my rock:
'Why have you forgotten me?'"
-Anne Sexton

"I am in need of the truth
and the truth is not far
from sorrow."
-Anne Sexton

"There is not in the world a kind of life
more sweet and delightful than that of
a continual conversation with God."
-Brother Lawrence



Sermon Series through July 6:
From whispered parables to burning houses, thirsty souls to open borders —this sermon series invites us to read the Bible through the bold, questioning, and compassionate lens of four American women poets. Their words don't replace Scripture; they illuminate it.

Together, we'll find faith that's gentler, braver, and more openhearted than we imagined.

If you have a prayer request, please forward the request to the church office.
We will include it on the prayer request list for a month,
unless you request for us to leave it on longer.

Thanks to our summer choir for leading music this morning.



How to reach us:

7305 Hampton Boulevard,
Norfolk, VA 23505 (757) 423-2822
<https://spcnorfolk.org>
www.facebook.com/secondpresbyteriannorfolk

Office hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday:
10:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Sunday:
9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Staff

Dr. Craig Wansink, Senior Pastor	757-412-7467/cwansink@vuw.edu
Rev. Catherine Hart Monroe, Covenant Associate Pastor	757-287-9897/revcat@spcnorfolk.org
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Joe Morgan, Maintenance Specialist	
Barbara Watson, Housekeeper and Host	

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Faith Inclusion Network
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The Jungs in East Asia
Roz Klein
Our Partners in M.E.
Jonathan Doyle

2024 Session and Ministry Teams

Larry Hull, Clerk of Session

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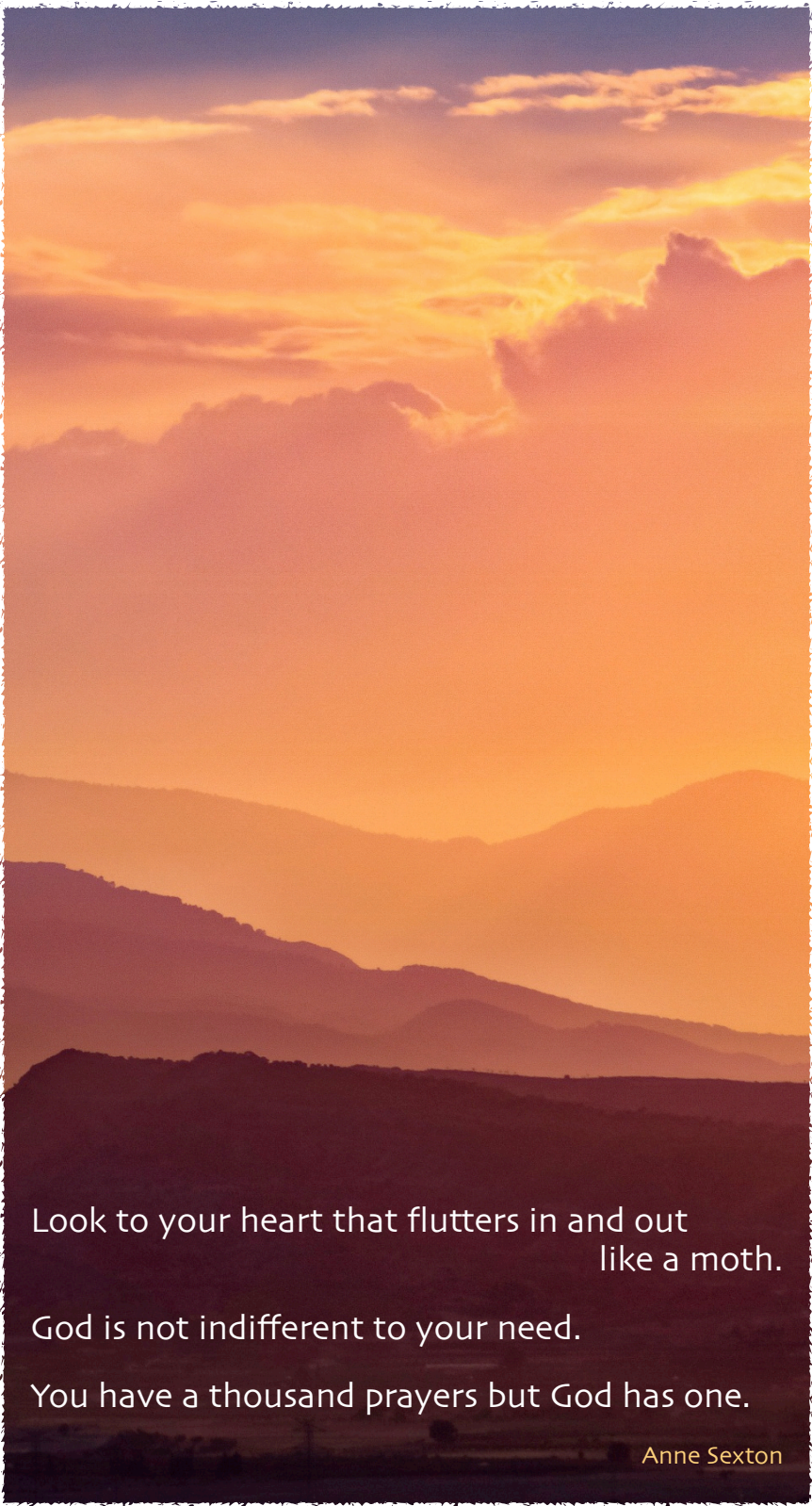
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11 A.M. WORSHIP

JUNE 22, 2025

WE GATHER IN NEED OF THE RISEN CHRIST

Chiming

As the bells ring, we quiet our voices and focus our hearts

Opening Prayer

God, We are not tidy people.
We bring tangled motives, spiritual bruises, and a thousand tiny griefs.

But we still come.

Come close enough to challenge us, but not so close we can't breathe.
Speak to us. We are listening.
And if You choose silence—
teach us how to wait in it without giving up. Amen.

Welcome

*Passing the Peace

*Singing God's Invitation

No. 123 "Come to Me, O Weary Traveler"

*Confessing Our Sin

God, we've tried to outrun the ache.
Filled the silence with noise.
Told ourselves You were gone.
But maybe it's us who stopped listening.

Forgive us for wanting less than You. Amen.

We sing:
For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;
Truly my hope is in you.

We listen:
O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits;
Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your word.
Come make us whole; be comfort to our hearts.

We sing:
For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;
Truly my hope is in you.

*Receiving Grace

Even when your hope is half a whisper, Christ meets you there.
Not with shame, but with mercy.
In Christ you are seen, known, and forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.



WE HEAR THE WORD

Time of Discovery

Message

Dr. Craig Wansink

"Not So, Not So": Anne Sexton, Psalms, and the Sacred Honesty of Doubt
Psalm 42:1-11

WE RESPOND IN HUMILITY

Meditating on Our Faith

"You Are My Child"
By Hal H. Hopson

The Choir

Mission and Ministry of the Church

Offering Gratitude

At down times in your life what voices—people, poems, prayers, or songs—
helped you name your pain or reminded you
that you're not alone in it?

*Please write your response, fold and put it in the black basket.
Baskets will be brought forward as an offering,
and pastoral staff will read and pray over them.*

*If you are visiting, please consider sharing your name and contact information
on a card and then putting that in the basket as well.*

*Thank you for all of the ways you support the mission of this church family.
Please feel free to place financial gifts in the pew baskets or those in the front.*

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

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.

*Singing Our Faith Together

No. 117 "Blest Are They"
Verses 1, 3, and 4

WE DEPART IN JOY

*Benediction

As you go from this place, remember who God is—
your help in the past, your hope for tomorrow.
Even in the waiting, even in the weeping,
may the God of steadfast love sustain you
and guide your steps in peace.
Amen.