I have shared this story with you before about the Chicago Presbyterian layman, Horatio G. Spafford, author of “It Is Well with My Soul.” Spafford was a successful lawyer who some months prior to the Chicago fire of 1871 had invested heavily in real estate on the shore of Lake Michigan and his holdings were wiped out by this disaster. Just before, he had experienced the death of his son. Desiring a rest, he planned a European trip and sent his wife and four daughters on the ship Ville du Havre and intended to join them in a few days. The ship was struck by an English vessel and sank in 12 minutes. Mrs. Spafford survived and arrived in Wales. She cabled her husband, “Saved alone.” As Spafford crossed the Atlantic to join her it was thought he penned the text of this hymn near the area where his daughters had drowned. What an amazing example for us of perseverance and faith that he was able to write with conviction, “When sorrows like sea billows roll…it is well with my soul.”
Order for the Public Worship of God
March 23, 2014
3rd Sunday in Lent
8:15 & 11:00 AM Worship Services

WE GATHER
(Let the congregation be silent, and in prayer as the music begins.
Please silence cell phones.)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

OPENING VOLUNTARY
“Thy Kingdom Come”
Melanie Cox and Dick Casper, Violin

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS
8:15—Heather Villafranca
11:00—Charles & Jane Larsen; Murle Whitten

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
(please complete the bulletin insert, “FRIENDSHIP SHEET,” and place it in the offering plate later in the service.)

*HYMN #75 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together) Paul Means, Associate Pastor
Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have turned from our neighbors and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have nearly given up all hope when confronted by difficult circumstances beyond our control. We have ignored the pain of the world, and paused by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In your great mercy forgive our sins and save us from the wrath of judgment for we have been justified by the blood of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*HYMN #551 “Land of Rest”

ANTHEM
“It Is Well With My Soul” arr. Craig Courtney

WE UNITE IN PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.”

WE SHARE

CALL TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING “Jesus Loves Me” arr. Joshua Evanovich
Melanie Cox, Violin

*Doxology—#606 PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SCRIPTURE READING (page 56) Exodus 17:1-7 (RSV)

SERMON “Something to Brag About” Chris Curvin, Pastor

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*Benediction

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Allemande” Maurice Greene

(Personal message to the congregation

*Congregation will stand. If standing is difficult for you, feel free to remain seated.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul.
It is well, it is well with my soul.