Horatio G. Spafford was a lawyer and a professor of medical jurisprudence at the Chicago Medical College. He also served as director and trustee for the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of the Northwest (now McCormick Theological Seminary). Late in 1873 Spafford and his family were scheduled to travel from the United States to Europe. Delayed by pressing business, Spafford sent his wife and daughters ahead on the French liner Ville du Havre. At sea the ship collided with another vessel and sank. Back in the United States Spafford received the tragic cabled message from his wife: “Saved alone.” Spafford returned to England to be reunited with his wife, grieving the loss of his four daughters. It was on this voyage that he wrote the text to the hymn “When Peace Like a River.”

Junko Takahashi died of osteosarcoma at the age of 7. Hospitalized for much of her life, Takahashi possessed a magnetic attraction in the wards where she was treated. Despite her terminal illness, she brought life to those around her through her person and through her poetry. Her poem “Don’na Tokidemo” was somewhat of a sensation in Japan where it was set to music and made popular through radio broadcasts. It continues as a testimony of a young Christian with a deep faith.

De profundis
... songs
born in pain

Out of the depths
I cry to you, O Lord . . . .
For with the Lord
there is great power
to redeem.

Psalm 130

Miller Chapel
Princeton Theological Seminary

Worship Service
Monday, 16 November, 2009
11:30 a.m.

Gathering Music

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn (see reverse) “When Peace Like a River”

Scripture Lesson Luke 21:12-14

Meditation

Call to Prayer Psalm 46

Refrain:

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn (green #188) “Don’na Tokidemo”/ “Anytime and Anywhere” each stanza sung first by soloist in Japanese, then by all in English

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Worship Leaders
John Owen, preacher
Craig Johnson, Kevin Mateer, Chase Wilhelm, liturgists
Martin Tel, director of music
Andrew Long, pianist
Margaret Mitsayasu, soloist and flutist

*“Be Still and Know” music by John L. Bell, ©1989, 1998 WGRG, Iona Community. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-700493.
When Peace Like a River

Words by Horatio G. Spafford.

Music, VILLE DU HAVRE, by Philip P. Bliss.

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control: that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul.

3 My sin—O, the bliss of this glorious thought, my sin—not in more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is scend: "Even so"—it is well with my soul.

4 And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.