THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
JUNE 18, 2023
11:00 AM

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE RC Smith

PRELUDE *Forlana* Finzi

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** Jeff Bartell

We come together in the sure knowledge:
God does not pass us by.
We gather to worship knowing this truth:
God fulfills promises.
Even when we cannot muster belief:
God is faithful to us.

* **HYMN 645** *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns* MIT FREUDEN ZART

Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled,
and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power has made
God's gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning glow or evening shade
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of God's might,
lo! all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,
but, through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing,
as with a mother's tender hand
God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!

Thus all my toilsome way along
I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart;
both soul and body, take your part:
to God all praise and glory!

* *Those who are able are invited to stand.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION RC Smith

Holy God, you send us to proclaim the good news of your kingdom
to all who are lost,
all who are afflicted,
all who are captive,
all who have been cast out.
But we are content to stay within familiar communities
where we know others will receive this news with nods of agreement.

Forgive us, O God.
Push us beyond what is comfortable and safe,
and strengthen us for lives of compassionate service,
that we might be the laborers you call us to be.

(a moment for silent reflection)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* **SONG OF JOY 611** (v. 1) *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

* **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 9:35-10:8 Page 885

SERMON *Proclaiming the Good News Is Not for Wimps* RC Smith

* **HYMN 432** *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* REPTON

How clear is our vocation, Lord,
when once we heed your call
to live according to your word
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all
and will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find
your yoke is hard to bear;
if worldly pressures fray the mind
and love itself cannot unwind
its tangled skein of care:
our inward life repair.

(continued next page)

We marvel how your saints became
in hindrances more sure:
whose joyful virtues put to shame
the casual way we wear your name,
and by our faults obscure
your power to cleanse and cure.

In what you give us, Lord, to do,
together or alone,
in old routines or ventures new,
may we not cease to look to you:
the cross you hung upon,
all you endeavored, done.

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Jeff Bartell

Life is a gift to be received with gratitude
and a task to be pursued with courage.

People are free to seek life
within the purpose of God:
to develop and protect the resources
of nature for the common welfare,
to work for justice and peace in society,
and in other ways to use their creative powers
for the fulfillment of human life.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD RC Smith

ANTHEM A *Jubilant Song* Mary Lynn Lightfoot
(The Chancel Choir)

Refrain:
Cantate Domino canticum novum,
Sing to the Lord a new jubilant song.
Cantate Domino canticum novum omnis terra.
Sing to the Lord all the earth.

Let the sea roar and the floods clap their hands.
Let the heavens and the earth all rejoice,
For the Lord is greatly to be praised.
Declare God's salvation! Declare God's great glory!
Lift up a jubilant song and make joyful noise! (Refrain)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER RC Smith

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.

*** HYMN 43** (vv. 1, 3 & 4) *You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord* ON EAGLE'S WINGS

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord, "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain:
And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come. (Refrain)

For to his angels he's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** RC Smith

*** POSTLUDE** *Toccata and Fugue in F Major* Buxtehude

Today we welcome guest organist and director **Cynthia Roberts-Greene**, who grew up in Sarasota and studied organ and piano locally. She went on to earn her Bachelor of Music degree from Florida State University, and her Master's degree in organ from the Eastman School of Music as a student of Russell Saunders. Cynthia has concertized extensively in Southwest Florida and in the U.S. She is the former Music Director-Organist of Siesta Key Chapel, and served as Music Director-Organist of Temple Emanu-El for the past 26 years.