Fourth Sunday of Easter



MAY 8, 2022
11:00 AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"It is not objective proof of God's existence that we want but, whether we use religious language for it or not, the experience of God's presence. That is the miracle that we are really after. And that is also, I think, the miracle that we really get."

- Frederick Buechner

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE Margaret LaMotte Torrence

PRELUDE *His Eye Is on the Sparrow* arr. Hayes/Andrews
(Dr. Tom Andrews, piano)

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** from Psalm 122:1
Dick Wigton

I was glad when they said to me,

Come! Let us go to the house of the Lord.

In the friction and grace of community,
in a world full of need,

We come seeking the presence of God.

* **HYMN 385** *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*
OLD HUNDREDTH

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell.
Come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make;
We are his folk; he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise;
Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly do to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Shepherd of our need,
In the comings and goings of each day,
we lose the sound of your voice
in the noise of other demands.
We forget the one to whom we belong.

In the silence, remind us that we are known.
Call us by name and bless us with courage,
until we follow wherever you would lead.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* *Those who are able will please stand.*

***SONG OF JOY 109** *Blest Be the God of Israel* MERLE'S TUNE

Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;
Who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise and bring the people peace.

On those who sit in darkness the sun begins to rise,
The dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.
God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING John 10:22-30

SERMON *Belonging Comes First* Margaret LaMotte Torrence

*** HYMN 803** *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* (Psalm 23) RESIGNATION

My shepherd will supply my need;
Jehovah is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed,
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back
When I forsake his ways,
And leads me, for his mercy's sake,
In paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death
Your presence is my stay;
One word of your supporting breath
Drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
Does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows;
Your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode,
And all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
While others go and come;
No more a stranger, or a guest,

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** From *A Brief Statement of Faith*
Dick Wigton

God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SOLO *If With All Your Hearts* Felix Mendelssohn
(Matt Jarvis, tenor)

If with all your heart ye truly seek me,
Ye shall ever surely find me,
Thus saith our God.

Oh, that I knew where I might find him,
That I might even come before his presence.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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 547** *Go My Children with My Blessing* AR HYD Y NOS

Go, my children, with my blessing,
Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you,
You are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing,
You are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
What I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
Here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished,
Closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving,
Joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
Here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished,
Joyful and free.

*** BENEDICTION** Margaret LaMotte Torrence

POSTLUDE *Hornpipe in D* John S. Dixon

David Patrick, our guest organist today, has recently returned to his native Sarasota following a distinguished career as music director, voice coach, pianist and organist for churches, colleges, theaters, and theme parks. In addition to a long tenure with the celebrated Fred Waring Singers, he has produced numerous musical events for Walt Disney World and was organist at First Presbyterian Church of Orlando.

The illustration on the cover of today's bulletin is by Deborah Nell. It has appeared in The Whisper of God journal, and Journey with Jesus.