

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

PRELUDE

It Is Well with My Soul

arr. Mark Hayes / Priest

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 118:14-17, 19-20, 22 (New Living Translation)

The Lord is my strength and my song; the Holy One has given me victory. Songs of joy and victory are sung in the camp of the godly. The arm of the Lord has done glorious things!

The arm of the Lord is raised in triumph.

The arm of the Lord has done glorious things!
I will not die, but will live
to tell what the Lord has done.

Open for me the gates where the righteous enter, and I will go in and thank the Lord.

These gates lead to the presence of the Lord, and the godly enter there.

The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.

* HYMN 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Lobe Den Herren

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; Join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again; Gladly for aye we adore him.

^{*}Those who are able are invited to stand.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Steven Phillips

Holy One,
We gather today in community,
imperfect in our love,
not yet fully formed,
needing again to breathe in the air of grace.

Our fears often capture us so that we make ourselves small, too afraid to extend our love, too ready to criticize others, too easily giving up on the world too often grieving as those who have no hope.

Call us to resurrection.

Breathe into us a new breath of life.

Open our hearts to the deep peace for which we were created.

(Please enter into a moment of silent listening)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*SONG OF JOY 14 (vv. 1 & 5) For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best gift divine
To the world so freely given;
For that great, great love of thine,
Peace on earth and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

* THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-31 (N/V)

SERMON What's Beyond the Door? Steven Phillips

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 Margaret LaMotte Torrence

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us.

ANTHEM

Come, Christians, Join to Sing!

Spanish Hymn / arr. Pethel

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen! Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen! Let all, with heart and voice before his throne rejoice; Praise is his gracious choice; Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen! Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen! He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend; His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen! Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen! On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,

Singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

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.

Here in this place the new light is streaming;
Now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young; our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
Give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water; Here we will take the bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, Call us anew to be salt for the earth.

> Give us to drink the wine of compassion; Give us to eat the bread that is you; Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
Not in some heaven, light years away:
Here in this place the new light is shining;
Now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

*BENEDICTION Steven Phillips

POSTLUDE

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

Craig Phillips

Our guest organist today is Glenn Priest. He received his Bachelor and Master degrees in Applied Piano from Boston University and completed his seminary work in theology at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. Glenn has held worship leading roles at churches in Massachusetts, Tennessee, and North Carolina, and is now at Fairhaven Church, Ohio, where he is the Team Leader of Ministry Arts.

