FAITH FOCUS WEEKEND
OCTOBER 24, 2021
11:00 AM

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE Rev. Margaret LaMotte Torrence

PRELUDE *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling / Great is the Lord* arr. Andrews
(Dr. Tom Andrews, pianist)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 146

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.
When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith for ever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

***HYMN 401** *Here in This Place* M. Haugen

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.

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

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Endlessly merciful God,

Like the crowd that trailed behind Jesus,
we do not really know this one we aim to follow.
Sometimes we stand in the way of the life you would offer;
we stifle the voices of those who cry to you.

Have mercy on us, Lord.
Keep close to us on the journey.
Heal us of blindness we do not recognize,
and open our ears to the cries of those
who speak a truth we need to hear.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***SONG OF JOY 772 (vv. 2 & 4)** *Live into Hope*

Live into hope! The blind shall see
With insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear,
A vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of captives freed
From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.

*** THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. Paul Roberts

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 10:46-52

SERMON *"Blind on the Side of the Road"* Rev. Paul Roberts

ANTHEM *Somebody's Calling My Name* Spiritual / arr. Edwin E. Ferguson
(Chancel Choir)

Hush, hush! Somebody's calling my name!
Oh my Lord, Oh my Lord, who's calling me?

Sounds like Jesus, Jesus a-calling his name.
Don't you hear? (Yes, I hear!) He's calling your name.

I'm so glad Jesus is calling my name!
(We're so glad Jesus is calling your name.)
Brothers can't you hear? Sisters can't you hear?

Hush, hush! Is Jesus calling your name?
Can you hear, can you hear?

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** A Declaration of Faith, PCUS, 1977
Steven Phillips

Jesus Christ overthrew evil powers that enslaved and degraded people,
yet he made no use of power to protect himself.
He healed those who were sick in body and mind,
yet he did not avoid pain and suffering for himself.
He commanded his followers to place loyalty to him above loyalty to family and country,
yet he lived among them as a servant.
Jesus taught with authority, challenging many time-honored customs and ideas,
yet he submitted to humiliation and death without a word on his own behalf.
He forgave sinners,
yet he was counted among sinners.

We recognize the work of God in Jesus' power and authority.
He did what only God can do.
We also recognize the work of God in Jesus' lowliness.
When he lived as a servant and went humbly to his death
the greatness that belongs only to God was manifest.
In both his majesty and lowliness Jesus is the eternal Son of God,
God himself with us.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

***HYMN 853** *We Are Marching in the Light of God*

We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God. (repeat)

We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,
We are marching in the light of God. (repeat)

We are dancing . . .

We are singing . . .

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Paul Roberts

POSTLUDE *Improvisation on Lead On, O King Eternal* Steven Phillips

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