

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Children's Sabbath

A Service by the Congregation of Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church

October 18, 2020

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator God, you have formed us in your own image. Let our likeness to you be restored today in the way we live with one another. On this day of Children's Sabbath make us newly aware of the children among and around us. Give us grace to love, nurture and guide the children in our lives that they may come to live the lives for which they were created. Amen

Prelude

O Waly Waly

by James Biery
Steven Russell, Organ

WELCOME AND POURING OF WATER

Rev. Eileen Lindner

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

Elder Craig Lambie

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Craig Lambie

Gather our hearts, O God,
knitting us together across difference and division
to live with your compassion.

**Gather our minds, O God,
from distractions and distance to focus on you and your children.**

**Gather our wills, O God,
to be strong and courageous in pursuit of your justice.**

By the power of your holy spirit, make us one in heart, mind, and spirit
as we worship you on this Children's Sabbath day.

Come, let us worship God.

HYMN *O for a World*

**O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.**

**We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of infinite possibility, we confess that too often we are stuck in what is rather than working toward what could be. We doubt we can make a difference and so we just try to get through the day. We become overwhelmed by pain, problems, and the pandemic, and want to hide our hearts, sit on our hands, wait for it to end.

Forgive us, O God, for living too little in the largeness of your love. Fill us, we pray, with courage and compassion, vision and determination to embody your love, seek your will, and strive for your justice that will enable all children to thrive and live with joy in the fullness of life that you intend. These things we pray in the name of your child, Jesus. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

**O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.**

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 65:17-25

**For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice for ever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,**

or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
They shall not labour in vain,
or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—
and their descendants as well.
Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
says the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

"My Lord What a Mornin'"

Arranged by Mark Hayes
Melanie Chambers

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 18:1-7

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, ‘Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’ He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, ‘Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

‘If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of stumbling-blocks! Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling-block comes!

This is the Gospel of Christ!
Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

Children of Hope and Promise

Rev. Eileen Lindner

HYMN OF MEDITATION *Though I May Speak (The Gift of Love)*

**Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

**Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

HYMN

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

**I sing a song of the saints of God,
patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.**

**They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
and God's love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,
the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's not any reason, no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.**

**They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
for the saints of God are just folk like me,
and I mean to be one too.**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

by Samuel Scheidt
Steven Russell, Organist