



Online Worship Resource (Sunday, February 12, 2023) BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude:

My Heart Ever Faithful

J. S. Bach

My heart ever faithful, sing praises, be joyful, thy Jesus is near;
Away with complaining, faith ever maintaining, my Jesus is here;
My heart ever faithful, sing praises, be joyful, thy Jesus is here!

Jane Kerr, Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship:

Amanda Fahrig, Liturgist

Please stand as you are led and join me in our responsive Call to Worship:
We stand in a long line of believers who have been faithful through the ages.

They have come through trial and difficulty, yet always clung to God in hope and trust.

May we, too, know the faith which is filled with hope in things not seen.

Lord, give us a faith like the grain of mustard seed, which had small beginnings but yielded large results.

Give us the faith to move the mountains of difficulty which come to each of us.

Give us faith that sees a distant goal and is willing to work to achieve it.

Give us a faith which envisions a new world where peace and love infuse every interaction.

Give us a faith like Abraham's to move forward not knowing our destination but trusting in your guiding providence.

Give us faith that can endure moments of personal disquiet, trusting that you are with us.

Give us a faith which sees the welfare of humankind as our business because it is the focus of your enduring love for your people.

Give us a faith which sees beyond the years to an eternal home.

God, give us faith to walk with you through the ebb and flow, the victories and defeats of life, trusting in your abiding love and faithfulness.

God, give us faith!

Opening Hymn: #839 - Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his spirit, washed in his blood!

REFRAIN: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long (repeat).

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; Angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love (REFRAIN)

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. (REFRAIN)

Call to Confession (Liturgist)

Even when we are faithless, God loves us still and waits in mercy to forgive. Trusting in God's everlasting compassion, let us confess our sins before God and one another. Let us pray. . .

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you promise us a life full of blessings, but we do not always believe. You incite us to hope, but we fall back into fear. You urge us to give freely, but we cling to what we have. You call us to watch at all times for you, but we grow lazy and self-absorbed. Forgive us, Lord. Increase our faith, enlarge our heart, and renew our hope, keeping us alert to the wonders you work in the world every day. For the sake of Christ we pray.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News! By faith we have been saved, our guilty hearts washed clean.

Refreshed, revived, and renewed, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will live as those who are forgiven, freed, and called to faith. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Response: #328 -"Praise God, All You Nations" (Da n'ase)

Praise God all you nations. People of God sing praise! (Repeat)

God's love is great and endures forever, Praise God, all you nations. People of God sing praise.

Da n'ase! Da n'ase! Da Onyame ase! (Repeat)

Efiase oye, n'a n'a doe doe so, Da n'ase, Da n'ase, Onyame ase!

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

(Liturgist)

Let us prepare our hearts to hear God's Word by praying together the prayer for Illumination:

Gracious God, by your Spirit enlighten us; illumine us; inspire us; and grant us faith; not for our sakes, but the sake of Jesus Christ in whom we live and trust. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 NT p. 225

(Liturgist)

1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon The State of the Union: Faith or the Status Quo? Rev. Michelle Fincher

Hymn after Sermon: #684: "Faith Begins by Letting Go"

Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure,
Taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure:
Pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on, keeping memory's roots alive,
So that hope may bear its fruit; promise-fed, our souls will thrive,
Not through merit we possess, but by God's great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds, enlarging hearts,
Sharing struggles, living prayer, binding up the broken parts;
Till we find the commonplace ripe with witness to God's grace.

Call to Offering

(Liturgist)

In faith and gratitude, it is our joy to share what God has entrusted to us, that God's realm of peace, justice and hope may be made known in our community. Thank you for your generous and sacrificial giving to the ministry of Christ's church. In addition to our online giving option, offering plates are available in the front and back of the sanctuary. Please pray with me our prayer of dedication. . .

Prayer of Dedication

Accept these gifts on behalf of your people, O Lord, that they would increase faith, nurture hope, and provide comfort and healing to those waiting to receive it. Amen.

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.

Closing Hymn:

463 - "How Firm A Foundation" vs. 1,2,3,5

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!

What more can be said than to you God hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;

I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

Benediction

Postlude:

We Are God's People

J. Brahms / F. Bock

We are God's peoples the chosen of the Lord, born of the Spirit,

established by the Word. Our cornerstone is Christ alone,

and strong in Christ we stand, O let us live transparently and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, Director of Music, Rachel Jelsma, Trumpet

Amanda Fahrig, liturgist and Jonathan Jelsma, technology team

