



Online Worship Resource (Sunday, October 30, 2022)

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude:

HOLY ART THOU, LORD GOD ALMIGHTY

G. F. Handel

Jane Kerr, Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Margaret Yeboah, Liturgist

Please stand as you are led and join me in the Affirmation of Faith:

Affirmation of Faith

God is our refuge and strength, ready to help whenever trouble is near.

Therefore we will not fear, whatever changes, chaos, or calamity threatens us.

Confident in God's faithfulness and love, we proclaim our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

We believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord;
 who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
 born of the Virgin Mary,

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

We believe in the Holy Ghost;

**the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Opening Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing. Our helper, he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;

For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he. Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, We will not fear for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.

The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him. His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth. The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also, The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

Call to Confession

(Liturgist)

Just as the world continues to revolve and evolve, the church is called to move in new directions, reformed and always reforming. Yet too often we do what we can to place brakes on change and silence newness. Let us confess our reticence to embrace the growth that God's Spirit is leading us to. Let us pray together. . .

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, your Spirit is still blowing in our direction, nudging us to move forward, to change and evolve and continue to reform. Forgive us when we limit you, God, when we place you and your ideas into boxes, when we allow our doubt and fear to lead to static lives, ossified minds, and closed hearts. Instead, open our souls to the expansiveness of faith. Give us courage to incorporate the new winds and bold ideas of your vision for our lives, our church, and our world.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Renewed by God's Spirit and reformed with God's compassion, we are remade more fully into the image of Christ Jesus our Lord.

For Christ's love and mercy, we give thanks to God! Hallelujah! Amen.

Response: "Christ Be Beside Me"

Christ be beside me; Christ be before me; Christ be behind me, King of my heart. Christ be within me; Christ be below me; Christ be above me, never to part.

Passing the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Choir Special: "With Mind and Spirit"

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

(Liturgist)

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

God of new life and new vision, speak to us again your message of hope.

May your Word lead us to see through the chaos of our world to the new thing you are doing in and through us. For the sake of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading

John 15: 1-6

(Liturgist)

¹ I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

Jeremiah 29: 1, 11-14

(Pastor)

¹ These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴ I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

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

Sermon

From Chaos to Vision

Rev. Michelle Fincher

Hymn After Sermon: "Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"

Come sing, O church in joy! Come join, O church in song! For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!

Refrain: In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme, empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream! (Refrain)

Let courage be our friend: Let wisdom be our guide; As we in mission magnify the Crucified! (Refrain)

Come sing, O church in joy! Come join, O church, in song! For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long! (Refrain)

Call to offering (Liturgist)

Offering what we have for the sake of others is a discipline of pruning-letting go of our possessions, our time, and even ourselves-to extend the gospel witness into the world. Thank you for your generous ministry of giving. You need not fear; you abide in the vine. Please pray with me our prayer of dedication...

Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, thank you for the joy and privilege of being your instruments to do a new thing in our world-a new thing that always bends towards justice, mercy, healing, and hope. It is with gratitude that we offer our gifts to serve your kingdom purposes. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, they 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: “Here I Am, Lord”

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

REFRAIN

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? (REFRAIN)

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts are satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (REFRAIN)

Benediction

Postlude:

TOCCATA IN d (BWV 565)

J. S. Bach

Piano and Organ

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, Director of Music,
David Maley, pianist, Calvary's Choir, Margaret Yeboah, liturgist and
Jon Jelsma, technology team