

Front Street United Methodist Church

July 26, 2020 || 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Prelude on 'Darwall's 14^{8th}'

Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)

As the prelude is played, prepare your home, yourself, and your family to enter into this time of worship.

Gathering

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works!

Hymn

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

UMH 150

1. God, who stretched the span-gled heav-ens, in-fi-nite in
2. Proud-ly rise our mod-ern cit-ies, state-ly build-ings,
3. We have ven-tured worlds un-dreamed of since the child-hood
4. As each far ho-ri-zon beck-ons, may it chal-lenge

time and place, flung the suns in burn-ing ra-diance
row on row; yet their win-dows, blank, un-feel-ing,
of our race; known the ec-sta-sy of wing-ing
us a-new, chil-dren of cre-a-tive pur-pose,

through the si-lent fields of space, we your chil-dren,
stare on can-yoned streets be-low, where the lone-ly
through un-trav-eled realms of space; probed the se-crets
serv-ing oth-ers, hon-oring you. May our dreams prove

in your like-ness, share in-ven-tive powers with you.
drift un-no-ticed in the cit-y's ebb and flow,
of the at-om, yield-ing un-i-mag-ined power,
rich with prom-ise, each en-deav-or well be-gun.

Great Cre-a-tor, still cre-at-ing, show us what we yet may do.
lost to pur-pose and to mean-ing, scarce-ly car-ing where they go.
fac-ing us with life's de-struc-tion or our most tri-um-phiant hour.
Great Cre-a-tor, give us guid-ance till our goals and yours are one.

The Word, *read & proclaimed*

Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus continued, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Sermon

"A Different View"

Rev. Ross Carter

Jan Luyken, "Parable of the Hidden Treasure," etching on copper, ca. 1690, Amsterdam, Netherlands.



The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

Giving

"So Will I"

Hillsong Worship

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Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Sending Forth

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, and grant us peace, now and always.
Glory to God! Amen.

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Worship Notes

Prelude

English organist and composer Percy Whitlock made his name in the 1930s in Bournemouth, England, first at the cathedral-like church of St. Stephen, and then as Borough Organist at the new Pavilion in the Winter Gardens. The Compton organ there was “designed to perform music of the most severe type or the latest foxtrot with equal facility,” and Whitlock’s duties and musical sympathies were similarly wide-ranging. The Prelude on ‘Darwall’s 148th’ is from a collection of *Six Hymn Preludes* that were composed in the early 1920s when Whitlock was still a student at the Royal College of Music. The tune is by John Darwall (1731-1789), who was an English clergyman and hymnodist, and it is located in The United Methodist Hymnal at No. 715, “Rejoice, the Lord Is King.”

Hymn

The author of this hymn’s text, Catherine Arnott Cameron (1927-2019), was the daughter of the famous New York minister, John Sutherland Bonnell (1893-1992), and for many years associate professor of social psychology at the University of La Verne in California. Few hymns speak as eloquently as this about the modern scene. Have we let our inventiveness lead us astray until we are faced with the possibility of self-destruction? Has the city become an uncaring place where the lonely drift unnoticed? The hymn ends with a plea to make our work fit into the plans of God. The tune HOLY MANNA by William Moore (1790-1850) is typical of the early nineteenth-century shape-note tunes.

Offertory

Hillsong Worship, based in Sydney, Australia, is a collective of musicians and singers whose stated goal is “to serve the global Church and equip believers everywhere with songs of Holy Spirit power that exalt and glorify the Name of Jesus, build the Church and fuel revival on the earth.” This morning’s song, “So Will I,” pulls back for a “10,000 foot view” of God’s redemptive work in the world, which begins at creation, and moves from God’s mighty acts of salvation in Jesus to an acclamation of belief in trust in this God who has so revealed himself. Following God’s gracious acts, we can only respond to the grace that has been given in awe as we offer our lives back to God.