

ST. JOHN'S WORSHIP

Sunday, October 25, 2020

St. John's Baptist Church | Charlotte, NC

BEING CHRIST'S CHURCH IS LIKE A REFUGEE CENTER

Opening Song

O, Christians Haste

O Christians, haste, your mission high fulfilling, to tell to the world that God is one who cares, that God who made all nations is not willing one life should perish, lost in deep despair.

Refrain: Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace, tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.

Greeting & Prayer of Submission

Rev. Nate Dove

Hymn of Praise

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

ST. MICHAEL

O day of God, draw nigh in beauty and in power; come with your timeless judgment now to match our present hour.

Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and afraid, the quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call obeyed.

Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure, and finely build for days to come foundations that endure.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Numbers 35:1-4, 6, 13-15

Anna Cushman, reader and Immigration Attorney

In the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Command the Israelites to give, from the inheritance that they possess, towns for the Levites to live in; you shall also give to the Levites pasture lands surrounding the towns. The towns shall be theirs to live in, and their pasture lands shall be for their cattle, for their livestock, and for all their animals. The pasture lands of the towns, which you shall give to the Levites, shall reach from the wall of the town outward a thousand cubits all around. The towns that you give to the Levites shall include the six cities of refuge, where you shall permit a slayer to flee, and in addition to them you shall give forty-two towns. The cities that you designate shall be six cities of refuge for you: you shall designate three cities beyond the Jordan, and three cities in the land of Canaan, to be cities of refuge. These six cities shall serve as refuge for the Israelites, for the resident or transient alien among them, so that anyone who kills a person without intent may flee there.

This is the written word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Song

God of the Refugee, God of the Stranger

text by J. Kevin Gray

CHRIST AROSE

God of the refugee, God of the stranger, you seek the ones in need, and raise them up. Give us your heart O, Lord, and grant us strength to do your will. We would follow you healing all we meet, giving rest to the weary, the stranger in the street. Lord, we hear, Lord we see, and we seek to be your will.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Rev. Allison Benfield

Joshua 20:7-9

So they set apart Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali, and Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the hill country of Judah. And beyond the Jordan east of Jericho, they appointed Bezer in the wilderness on the tableland, from the tribe of Reuben, and Ramoth in Gilead, from the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan, from the tribe of Manasseh. These were the cities designated for all the Israelites, and for the aliens residing among them, that anyone who killed a person without intent could flee there, so as not to die by the hand of the avenger of blood, until there was a trial before the congregation.

This is the written word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Interview of Brickson and Annie Sam

Reading from the Gospel of Luke

Luke 4:16-21

Aluel Nyuon, reader

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

This is the written word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Song

Sing Out! Sound the Trumpets! Proclaim Jubilee!

by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Sing out! Sound the trumpets! Proclaim jubilee! Through words from Isaiah, we came to be free; for blest by the Spirit, Christ read from that scroll, proclaiming his mission: to make our lives whole.

Refrain: Hear the word! Sing it out! It's good news to the poor! Christ has come! Let us shout! We are captives no more! Lost sight is restored, and God's world is set free: Christ came to our world to proclaim jubilee.

The Church at Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Lee Gray

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.

Opportunity for Giving

Offertory and Meditation

Do Something

by Matthew West

Woke up this morning saw a world full of trouble now I thought, "How'd we ever get so far down?" And "How we ever gonna turn it around?" I turned my eyes to Heaven, I said, "God, why don't you do something?"

Well, I just couldn't bear the thought of people living in poverty, women sold into slavery. The thought disgusted me. So, I shook my fist at heaven, I said, "God, why don't you do something?" and God said, "I did. I created you."

If not us, then who? If not me and you? Right now. Oh, it's time for us to do something. If not now, then when? Will we see an end to all this pain? It's not enough for us to do nothing. It's time for us to do something.

We are the salt of the earth, a city on a hill. But we'll never change the world by standing still. And if not us then who? if not me and you? Right now.

Oh, it's time for us to do something. If not now, then when? Will we see an end to all this pain? It's not enough for us to do nothing. It's time for us to do something.

Message

"Heart to a Stranger"

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Hymn

Sing Out! Sound the Trumpets! Proclaim Jubilee!

by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

O God, through your Christ you knelt to the earth, and by your own Spirit, you give us new birth. May we as your church have a passion to share your jubilee love with the world everywhere.

Refrain: Hear the word! Sing it out! It's good news to the poor! Christ has come! Let us shout! We are captives no more! Lost sight is restored, and God's world is set free: Christ came to our world to proclaim jubilee.

Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust

Postlude

"Con Moto Maestoso" from Sonata No. 3 in A Major by Felix Mendelssohn
J. Noel Lance