FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 26, 2025

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE "Preludio" from *10 Pieces for Organ* Theodore Dubois

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 96)

One: Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
All: Sing to the Lord! Bless God's name!
One: Give to the Lord, all families of the nations, give to the Lord glory and power.
All: The Lord is coming to establish justice on the earth! The Lord will establish justice in the world rightly. God will establish justice among all people fairly.
One: Let us worship God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #264
When in Our Music God is Glorified ENGELBERG

1 When in our music God is glorified,
And adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia!

2 How often, making music, we have found
A new dimension in the world of sound,
As worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia!

3 So has the church, in liturgy and song,
In faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
Borne witness to the truth in every tongue:
Alleluia!

4 Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always:
Alleluia! Amen.

*Please stand if you are able.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and forgiveness, we want to do what is pleasing to you, but we too often ignore our best intentions. We try to be faithful but are diverted by so many distractions. We have not recognized the sacredness of all people and the sacredness of your creation. We have failed to speak and act for peace and justice in our world. Have mercy on us, forgive our sin, and transform our lives by the power of your Holy Spirit. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Luke 7:1-10 Elisabeth Simpson

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Dr. Virginia B. Smith

"Faith Found in Unlikely People"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

*SERMON HYMN #400

When We Are Living SOMOS DEL SENORE

1 When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

2 Through all our living, we must give our fruits.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

3 'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

4 Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory O God of Light — Kenneth Fitzgerald

Chancel Choir

O God of light, your word, a lamp unfailing,
shall pierce the darkness of our earthbound way
and show your grace, your plan for us unveiling,
and guide our footsteps to the perfect day.

From days of old, through blind and willful ages,
though we rebelled, you gently sought again,
and spoke through saints, apostles, prophets, sages,
who wrote with eager or reluctant pen.

Undimmed by time, those words are still revealing
to sinful hearts your justice and your grace;
and questing spirits, longing for your healing,
see your compassion in the Savior's face.

To all the world your summons you are sending,
through all the earth, to ev'ry land and race,
that myriad tongues, in one great anthem blending,
may praise and celebrate your gift of grace.

*Doxology #592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow — OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN #421

The Church of Christ in Every Age WAREHAM

1 The church of Christ in every age,
Beset by change but Spirit led,
Must claim and test its heritage
And keep on rising from the dead.

2 Across the world, across the street,
The victims of injustice cry
For shelter and for bread to eat,
And never live until they die.

3 Then let the servant church arise,
A caring church that longs to be
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,
And clothed in Christ's humanity.

4 For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,
Can cure the fever in our blood,
And teach us how to share our bread
And feed the starving multitude.

5 We have no mission but to serve
In full obedience to our Lord:
To care for all, without reserve,
And spread his liberating word.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Maestoso" from *10 Pieces for Organ* Theodore Dubois