FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Traditional Service
May 15, 2022

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE "Prelude" from *Music for a Sunday Morning* Harald Rohling

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

People: Praise the Lord, all you angels; praise God from the highest heavens!

Leader: Praise the Lord from the earth; praise God beneath the waters!

People: Let all creatures praise the Lord, for at God's command, they all were created.

ALL: Come, let us worship God!

*GATHERING HYMN #459

Father, We Praise Thee CHRISTE SANCTORUM

1 Father, we praise Thee, now the night is over;
Active and watchful, stand we all before Thee;
Singing, we offer, prayer and meditation:
Thus we adore Thee.

2 Monarch of all things, fit us for Thy mansions;
Banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending;
Bring us to heaven, where Thy saints united
Joy without ending.

*Please stand if you are able.

3 All holy Father, Son and equal Spirit,
Trinity blessèd, send us Thy salvation;
Thine is the glory, gleaming and resounding
Through all creation.

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, Christ commanded his disciples to love one another just as he has loved us. And he has loved us generously, sacrificially, unconditionally, and unfailingly. Yet we constantly struggle to love one another and you as Christ has loved us. Too often we offer our love sparingly, carefully, conditionally, and uncertainly. Forgive us, Lord; help us to trust in Christ's love for us, and embody Christ's love for others so that, as Jesus promised, everyone will know we are his disciples by our love.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE John 13:31-35 Bob Hunsicker

Leader: The word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"The Hardest Commandment"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN #438
Blest Be the Tie That Binds DENNIS

1 Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

2 Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

3 We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

4 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (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 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. I 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Fairest Lord Jesus arr. Martin How

Chancel Choir

Fairest Lord Jesus,
ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows,
fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine,
fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heaven can boast.

*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.

*SENDING HYMN #358

Help Us Accept Each Other BARONITA

1 Help us accept each other
As Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother,
Each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
And bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted
And meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O Lord, Your lessons,
As in our daily life
We struggle to be human
And search for hope and faith
Teach us to care for people,
For all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them
Or as they may become.

3 Let Your acceptance change us,
So that we may be moved
In living situations
To do the truth in love;
To practice Your acceptance
Until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness
And laughter's healing art.

4 Lord, for today's encounters
With all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance,
For righteousness and bread,
We need new eyes for seeing,
New hands for holding on:
Renew us with Your Spirit;
Lord, free us, make us one!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE March of the Priests F. Mendelssohn/arr. E. Duncan

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