FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE "Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness", BWV 654 Johann Sebastian Bach
Dr. Barbara Thomson, Guest Organist

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make God's face to shine upon us,
People: that your way may be known upon the Earth, Lord; your saving power among all nations.
Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
People: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #485
To God Be the Glory TO GOD BE THE GLORY

1 To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done.

*Please stand if you are able.

2 Great things He hath taught us, great things He
hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
[Refrain]

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious and loving God, in Jesus Christ you came to give us redemption, new life, and love above all. We confess that too often we find ourselves living lives that do not reflect or respond to the abundance of your love. We resign ourselves to whom we have always been, to whom others expect us always to be. Forgive us, Lord, and fill us with your grace and power. Help us to love others as Christ has loved us, trusting in you to lead us into the new and eternal life that you intend for everyone.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE 1 John 3:16-24 Phil Fair
Leader: The word of the Lord;
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Love Indeed"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

*SERMON HYMN #366
Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me ST. CATHERINE

1 Jesus, Thy boundless love to me
No thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to Thee,
And reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, Thine alone, I'd live,
Myself to Thee, entirely give.

2 O, grant that nothing in my soul
May dwell, but Thy pure love alone;
O may Thy love possess me whole,
My joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove;
May every act, word, thought be love.

3 O love, how gracious is thy way!
All fear before thy presence flies;
Care, anguish, sorrow melt away,
Where'er Thy healing beams arise.
O Jesus, nothing may I see,
Nothing desire or seek, but Thee.

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH DEACON — Jeanette Claessens

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 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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Like a River In My Soul — arr. Tim Osiek

Chancel Choir

I've got peace like a river
Like a river in my soul
I've got peace like a river
Soothing river calmly flow
When the world closes in
Feel the stillness within

I've got peace like a river
Like a river in my soul
Love like an ocean
Like an ocean in my soul
I've got love like an ocean
Endless ocean deep and full

When you're lost and alone
Let the waves bring you home
I've got love like an ocean
Like an ocean in my soul
In my soul in my soul

My soul in my soul I've got joy
I've got joy I've got joy
Like a fountain in my soul
I've got joy like a fountain
Like a fountain in my soul

When your hope nearly dies
Just remember once again you shall rise

I've got joy like a fountain
Love like an ocean
Peace like a river in my soul
Like a fountain like an ocean
Like a river in my soul

*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 #423

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun DUKE STREET

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2 To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His name, like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

3 People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.

4 Blessings abound where'er He reigns;
The prisoners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blessed.

5 Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Psalm XIX Benedetto Marcello

Flowers given by Wendy and Dan Magocs in memory of their mothers,
Ruth W. Dennison and Doris Fresoli