FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost
Traditional Service
November 14, 2021

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE *Andante Religioso* from Sonata No. 4 F. Mendelssohn

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: The Lord is faithful in every word, and gracious in every deed.
People: The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.
Leader: My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
People: **and all living things will bless God's holy name forever.**
All: Come, let us worship God!

OPENING HYMN #281
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CWM RHONDDA

1 Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you startle us with your grace at times, inviting us into possibilities that we never considered or even imagined. You encourage us to stand up and walk into new life, trusting in you to go with us and ahead of us on the way. Forgive our wariness, anxiety, and fear as we hesitate to do so; strengthen our hearts and enliven our wills to follow where you lead us, so that we can serve you with faithfulness, love, and joy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE John 5:1-9 — Marie Rosenthal

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON — The Rev. J.C. Austin

"On the Way: The Road Ahead"

WE RESPOND

HYMN #387

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us — BRADBURY

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

2 Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.

3 Early let us seek Thy favor;
Early let us do Thy will;
Blessèd Lord and only Savior,
Eith Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

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

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. 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.

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS AND 2022 PLEDGES

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Here I Am, Lord — Chancel Choir — arr. Anna Laura Page

I the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save
I who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord,
Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go Lord,
If you lead me,
I will hold your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away
I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my words to them
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?

*Response - #592 OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

*Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN #414

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought FOREST GREEN

1 As those of old their firstfruits brought
Of vineyard, flock, and field
To God, the giver of all good,
The source of bounteous yield,
So we today our firstfruits bring,
The wealth of this good land:
Of farm and market, shop and home,
Of mind and heart and hand.

2 A world in need now summons us
To labor, love, and give,
To make our life an offering
To God that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us
To make the dream come true;
A world redeemed by Christ-like love,
All life in Christ made new.

3 With gratitude and humble trust
We bring our best to You,
Not just to serve Your cause,
but share Your love with neighbors too.
O God who gave Yourself to us
In Jesus Christ Your Son,
Help us to give ourselves each day
Until life's work is done.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Postlude on "Nun danket" arr. Wilbur Held

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