FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
Fifth Sunday After Easter

May 14, 2023

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE "A Wide Plain" "Distant Bells" from *Heartland Pictures, Op. 127* Sigfried Karg-Elert

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Do not fret of the wicked; for they will soon fade like the grass;
People: Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.
Leader: The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their refuge in time of trouble.
People: The Lord helps them and rescues them, because they take refuge in him.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #473
For the Beauty of the Earth DIX

1 For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.

Refrain:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light. **(Refrain)**

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight. **(Refrain)**

*Please stand if you are able.

4 For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild. **(Refrain)**

5 For Thy Church, that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love. **(Refrain)**

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving God, in his teachings Jesus called us to do to others as we would have them do to us. He said we should love our enemies, be merciful, and not judge or condemn. We confess that these are hard teachings, Lord; we feel justified in withholding love and mercy from those who hate us, in judging those who judge us. Lord, fill us with your Spirit of love and mercy, so that we may truly know your love and share it with everyone, even our enemies.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Luke 6:17-26 Linda Filipovits

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

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"More Than Fair"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN #357

O Master, Let me Walk with Thee MARYTON

1 O Master, let me walk with Thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

2 Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,
And guide them in the homeward way.

3 Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee
In closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong.

4 In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way;
In peace that only Thou canst give,
With Thee, O Master, let me live.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the *Confession of 1967*)

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. Jesus Christ is God with humanity. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.

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 Rest In the Lord, from Elijah — Felix Mendelssohn/arr. John Bertalot

Chancel Choir

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him,
And He shall give thee thy heart's desires.

Commit thy way unto Him, and trust in Him,
And fret not thyself because of evil doers.

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him.
Wait patiently for Him.

*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 #412

Eternal God, Whose Power Upholds — FOREST GREEN

(Verses 1, 2, 4 & 5)

1 Eternal God, whose power upholds
Both flower and flaming star,
To whom there is no here nor there,
No time, no near nor far,
No alien race, no foreign shore,
No child unsought, unknown:
O send us forth, Thy prophets true,
To make all lands Thine own!

2 O God of love, whose Spirit wakes
In every human breast,
Whom love, and love alone, can know,
In whom all hearts find rest:
Help us to spread Thy gracious reign
Till greed and hate shall cease,
And kindness dwell in human hearts,
And all the earth find peace!

4 O God of beauty, oft revealed
In dreams of human art,
In speech that flows to melody,
In holiness of heart:
Teach us to turn from sinfulness
That shuts our hearts to Thee,
Till all shall know the loveliness
Of lives made fair and free!

5 O God of righteousness and grace,
Seen in the Christ, Thy Son,
Whose life and death reveal Thy face,
By whom Thy will was done:
Inspire Thy heralds of good news
To live Thy life divine,
Till Christ has formed in all mankind
And every land is Thine!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Postlude in G, op. 134 no. 6 Gustav Merkel