FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

October 15, 2023

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Prelude on "Hanover" arr. Gordon Young

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, all who hunger for good news.
All: We thirst for words of hope and reconciliation.
One: Come, from rural road and city street, from near and far.
All: We gather at the Spirit's invitation.
One: Come, join the celebration.
All: Let us worship God.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #356

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing NETTLETON

1 Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

*Please stand if you are able.

3 O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, you see how stubborn we are, how quickly we turn from you toward idols of our own making, how impatient we are when we do not get what we think we deserve. We forget your providential care for us, the countless ways you provide, your gracious response to our cries for help. We do not think on things like justice and goodness. We are not known for our gentleness. We give in to the loud voices that tell us to tend to our needs only and neglect the very ones you command us to feed. We cannot justify our behavior, we can only confess it, repent, and ask again for your mercy. Forgive us, Lord, so that we can bear witness to your character of loving kindness. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Philippians 4:1-9 Bob Hunsicker
Leader: The word of the Lord;
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton
"An Off-Road Faith: A Spirituality of Us"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace — PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

from *Glory to God* – see insert

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Confession of Belhar)

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: In that we love one another; that we experience, practice, and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing 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 Let Us With a Gladsome Mind — Alan Ridout

Chancel Choir

Let us, with a gladsome mind,
praise the LORD, for He is kind:
for His mercies shall endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us blaze His name abroad,
for of gods He is the God:
for His mercies shall endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

He the golden trussed sun
Caused all day his course to run:
for His mercies shall endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

The horned moon to shine by night,
mid her spangled sisters bright:
for His mercies shall endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

All things living he doth feed,
His full hand supplies their need:
for His mercies shall endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

*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 #339

Be Thou My Vision – USING THIS ALTERNATE TEXT

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.
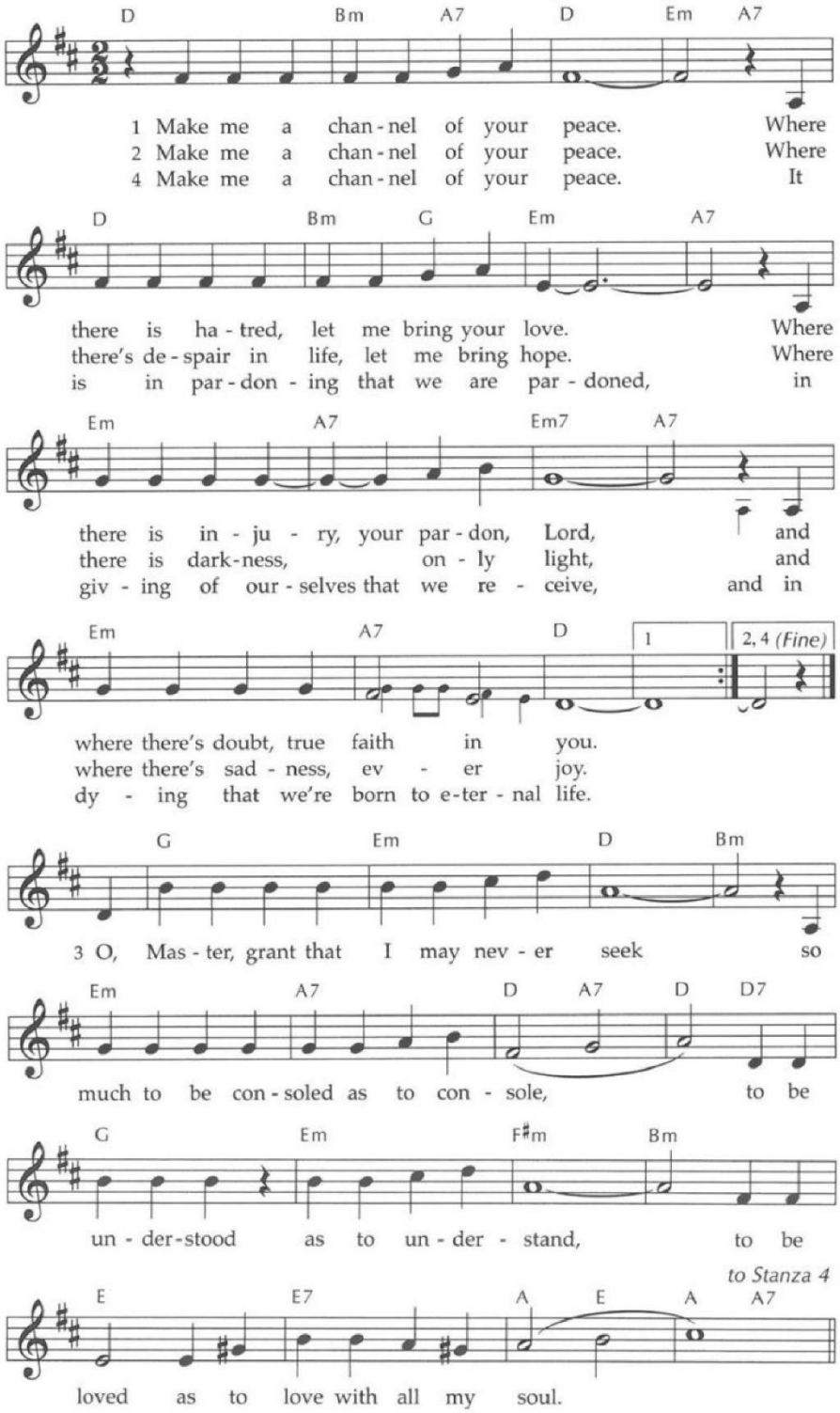
4 High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Saraband In Modo Elegiaco Herbert Howells

753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Though popular opinion credits this prayer to Francis of Assisi, the earliest known printing was in a French religious magazine in 1912. Yet that gentle saint's spirit seems evident in these words, a quality that has spurred many paraphrases and musical settings such as this one.

TEXT: Anon., c. 1912; adapt. Sebastian Temple, 1967
MUSIC: Sebastian Temple, 1963; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011
Text and Music © 1967 OCP

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS
Irregular

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