FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Summer Worship

The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 8, 2024

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE "Master Tallis' Testament" Herbert Howells

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives.

People: We need not look up to find God, we need only to look around: within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.

Leader: We need not listen for distant thunder to find God, we need only listen to the music of life, the words of children, the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat.

People: We worship the God who inhabits our world and who indwells our lives.

ALL: Let us worship God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #285

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets AUSTRIAN HYMN

1 God You spin the whirling planets
Fill the seas and spread the plain
Mold the mountains fashion blossoms
Call forth sunshine wind and rain
We created in your image
Would a true reflection be
Of Your justice grace and mercy
And the truth that makes us free

2 You have called us to be faithful
In our life and ministry
We respond in grateful worship
Joined in one community
When we blur Your gracious image
Focus us and make us whole
Healed and strengthened as Your people
We move onward toward Your goal.

*Please stand if you are able

3 God Your will is still creating
Calling us to life made new
Now reveal to us fresh vistas
Where there's work to dare and do
Keep us clear of all distortion
Fashion us with loving care
Thus new creatures in Your image
We'll proclaim Christ everywhere

EMBODIED CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #300
We Are One in the Spirit THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity, may one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, By our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

WE LISTEN

SCRIPTURE I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 (Common English Bible) JoAnne Turcotte

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

SERMON Rev. Dr. Virginia B. Smith

"Where Is God in This?"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

*SERMON HYMN
I Will Come to You (from *Glory to God,* see insert) YOU ARE MINE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [from the *Brief Statement of Faith of the PC (USA)]*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. 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!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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.

OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing arr. James Q. Mulholland

Chancel Choir

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 Thy redeeming love

Here I raise my Ebenezer
Here by Thy great help I've 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

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness 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, oh take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

*Doxology #414

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought FOREST GREEN

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.

*Prayer of Dedication

*SENDING HYMN

The River is Here *(see insert)* Andy Park

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE God You Reign Lincoln Brewster

Flowers given by Judy Smullen in memory of her parents, Bob and Judith Eisenhart

177 I Will Come to You

You Are Mine



Presuming to speak in the voice of God, as this song does, can only be done with integrity if the singers understand their words as an expression of what they believe about God's nature and God's intentions. It is an occasion for affirming faith, not for wishful thinking.

TEXT and MUSIC: David Haas, 1991
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YOU ARE MINE
Irregular

The River Is Here

Words and Music by
Andy Park

VERSE 1

♩= 120




VERSE 3 & 1
C G/B D G C G D G C G
Coda
29
3. Up to the moun - tain we love to go to find the pres - ence
1. Down the moun - tain the riv - er flows and it brings re - fresh - ing wher-
D G C G D G
33
of the Lord. A - long the banks of the riv - er we run, we
ev - er it goes. Through the val - leys and o - ver the fields the
CHORUS
C G D G G
36
dance with laugh - ter giv - ing praise to the Son. The riv - er of God sets our
riv - er is rush - ing and the riv - er is here.
C G D G
39
feet a - danc - ing, the riv - er of God fills our hearts with cheer. The riv - er of God fills our
INSTRUMENTAL 2
1
C G C G/B D/A G G
43
mouths with laugh - ter, and we re - joice for the riv - er is here.
(1)
C G/B D/A G
47
ENDING
(1) 2
D G D/A G C G/B D/A G
52
riv - er is here. Yes, we re - joice for the riv - er is here.