FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
The Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE II. "Adagio" from *Sonata No. 1* Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing praises unto the Lord, all his faithful ones!
People: Give thanks to God's holy name!
Leader: For God has turned our mourning into dancing, and clothed us in joy!
People: O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #108
Christ is Alive! TRURO

1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
To distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now,
And touching every place and time.

3 Not throned afar, remotely high,
Untouched, unmoved by human pains,
But daily, in the midst of life,
Our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

4 In every insult, rift and war,
Where color, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
And lives, where even hope has died.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
Good news to this and every age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring
With joy, with justice, love and praise.

*Please stand if you are able.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious and Loving God, we rejoice that you raised Christ from the dead and sent him back among the living to bear witness to your saving grace that has conquered death itself. But we confess that, while we celebrate the story, we do not always live it out; too often we follow the disciples in returning to ordinary life after the wonders of Easter morning. Lord, help us to be changed forever by the truth and power of Christ's resurrection; give us hearts filled with joy in Christ, voices filled with hope in Christ, and hands filled with the love of Christ to share with the whole world. Through Christ we pray.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Luke 24:36-48 Cynthia Simmons

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

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Calling All Witnesses"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

*SERMON HYMN #504

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether UNION SEMINARY

1 Draw us in the Spirit's tether,
For when humbly in Your name
Two or three are met together,
You are in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Touch we now Your garment's hem.

2 As disciples used to gather
In the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father
Break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
So now bind our friendship up.

3 All our meals and all our living
Make as sacraments of You,
That by caring, helping, giving,
We may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We will serve with faith anew.

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

MINUTE FOR MISSION — The Rev. Sue Pizor Yoder

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 With a Voice of Singing — Martin Shaw

Chancel Choir

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered His people, Alleluia!
O be joyful in God, all ye lands.
O sing praises to the honor of His name, make His praise to be glorious.
With a voice of singing, declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!

*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 #263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise ST. DENIO

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness
and love.

3 To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

4 Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE IV. "Fuga" from *Sonata No. 6* Felix Mendelssohn

Flowers given by Jane Mackie in memory of Larry Mackie