

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
Digital Traditional Service
July 5, 2020

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Psalm Prelude No. 2, Op. 32

Herbert Howells

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN

#262

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand – stanzas 1, 2, 4

NATIONAL HYMN

God of the ages, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion, God of justice, God of grace, we come to you today in the heat of summer when strength is sapped and tempers flare - and we confess that it is not only the weather that is hot this summer. The stresses of a seemingly endless pandemic, the divisiveness over simple public health directives, the stark evidence of racial oppression – all of these things are on our minds as we come to worship today. So send your Holy Spirit upon us to open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts to the ways in

which we have contributed to the pain of the world and the ways in which we can work to heal the wounds of our communities, our nation, our world. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our light and our life. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

SPECIAL MUSIC

"The Call", from Five Mystical Songs

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Bryan McClary, Baritone

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON

The Rev. Cynthia Simmons

"Pulling Our Weight"

WE RESPOND

HYMN

#353

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here

DAS NEUGEBORNE KINDELEIN

Great God, you love has called us here
As we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
Though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind,
Your call to hear, Your love to find.

We come with self-inflicted pains
Of broken trust and chosen wrong,
Half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
By social forces swept along,
By power and systems close confined,
Yet seeking hope for humankind.
Great God, in Christ You call our name
And then receive us as Your own
Not through some merit, right or claim
But by Your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
And find you kneeling at our feet.

Then take the towel and break the bread,
And humble us and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed
And show how grandly love intends
To work till all creation sings,
To fill all worlds, to crown all things.

Great God, in Christ you set us free
Your life to live, Your joy to share.
Give us Your Spirit's liberty
To turn from guilt and dull despair
And offer all that faith can do
While love is making all things new.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory "At the Fount of Life Eternal" (excerpt), from 10 Hymn Preludes
Leo Sowerby

*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

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to
give you thanks and praise...
As our Savior Christ has taught us,
so now we pray:

The 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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Amazing Grace

arr. J. B. Carlson

CLOSING HYMN

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Materna

O beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

Oh beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life.
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown they good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Voluntary on "America the Beautiful"