FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Summer Worship
The Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

July 28, 2024

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Bless the Lord — Jared Anderson
Contemporary Ensemble

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #429
Lord, You Give the Great Commission — ABBOT'S LEIGH

1 Lord, you give the great commission:
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
And the gospel go unheard,
Help us witness to your purpose
With renewed integrity;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

2 Lord, you call us to your service:
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise,
Life abundant meant for each,
Give us all new fervor, draw us
Closer in community;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

3 Lord, you make the common holy:
"This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
Daily lift life heavenward,
Asking that the world around us
Share your children's liberty;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

4 Lord, you show us love's true measure:
"Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure
All that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
To a just society:
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

EMBODIED CONFESSION

* Please stand if you are able

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 Philippians 1:3-11 Barbara Hjorth

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

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"An Unfinished Symphony"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

*SERMON HYMN

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me (see insert – from *Glory to God)* I'M GONNA LIVE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the *Book of Order*, Presbyterian Church (USA))

The church is called to be Christ's faithful evangelist: going into the world, making disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all he has commanded; demonstrating by the love of its members for one another and by the quality of its common life the new reality in Christ; sharing in worship, fellowship, and nurture, and practicing a deepened life of prayer and service under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is called and sent to participate in God's activity in the world through its life for others by healing and reconciling and binding up wounds; ministering to the needs of the poor, the sick, the lonely, and the powerless; engaging in the struggle to free people from sin, fear, oppression, hunger and injustice; and giving itself and its substance to the service of those who suffer, sharing with Christ in the establishing of his just, peaceable, and loving rule in the world. The Church is called to undertake this mission even at the risk of losing its life, trusting in God alone as the author and giver of life, sharing the gospel, and doing those deeds in the world that point beyond themselves to the new reality in Christ.

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 The Lord Bless You and Keep You — John Rutter

Chancel Choir

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you
To shine upon you and be gracious
And be gracious unto you
The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you
The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you
And give you peace, and give you peace;
And give you peace, and give you peace

*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 #434

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples — KINGSFOLD

1 Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free, make ploughshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

2 God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud, we sow not peace but strife,
our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

3 Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in the field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore and earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

4 May we in service to our God act out the living Word,
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the lord.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SENDING BLESSING

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE God Be With You Till We Meet Again arr. J. Bert Carlson

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me



This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Wendell P. Whalum, 1984
Music Arr. © Estate of Wendell P. Whalum

I'M GONNA LIVE
Irregular