FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

October 8, 2023

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Prelude on an Irish Church Melody, Op. 101, No. 6 Charles. V. Stanford

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Blessed be the name of the Lord, from this time on and forevermore!
People: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.
Leader: The Lord is high above all nations, and God's glory is above the heavens.
People: **Praise the Lord! Let us worship God.***PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CWM RHONDDA

1 Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

*Please stand if you are able.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving God, in Jesus Christ you set us free from bondage to the ways of this world, and call us to follow him in lives that proclaim your freedom, justice, and mercy. But we often struggle to follow him; we fall so easily back into the logic of this world, and struggle to understand the reality and power of your kingdom. Open our eyes and ears, Lord, and clear our hearts and minds, that we may see and hear and know the fullness of life you intend for all of us, and have the faithfulness and strength to follow Christ into it.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Galatians 6:7-10 Phil Fair
Leader: The word of the Lord;
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"An Off-Road Faith: Staying Gritty"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN #366
Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me ST. CATHERINE

1 Jesus, Thy boundless love to me
No thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to Thee,
And reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, Thine alone, I'd live,
Myself to Thee, entirely give.

2 O, grant that nothing in my soul
May dwell, but Thy pure love alone;
O may Thy love possess me whole,
My joy, my treasure, and my crown!
All coldness from my heart remove;
May every act, word, thought be love.

3 O love, how gracious is thy way!
All fear before thy presence flies;
Care, anguish, sorrow melt away,
Where'er Thy healing beams arise.
O Jesus, nothing may I see,
Nothing desire or seek, but Thee.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from "A Brief Statement of Faith")

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

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 Breathe on Me, Breath of God Stephen Rickards

Chancel Choir

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with yours,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly Thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with Thy fire divine

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with Thee
the perfect life of Thine eternity.

*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 #442

The Church's One Foundation AURELIA

1 The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the word.
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her
And for her life He died.

2 Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder
This world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

4 Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
May live eternally.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Maestoso" from *10 Pieces for Organ* Theodore Dubois