FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Worship Service
The Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 6, 2025

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

PRELUDE Adagio from *Symphonie* No. 5, Op. 42 Charles-Marie Widor

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship because we are in between:
hope and grief, faith and doubt, joy and longing,
curiosity and conviction.
So we come to worship and God meets us here.
Surely, we are not alone. Thanks be to God for meeting us in the middle! Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN

Righteous Mercy (see insert, from the resources of *A Sanctified Art)* HYFRYDOL

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, when we fail to be righteous, show us mercy. When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right. Again and again, bring us closer to you. Again and again, show us the way. Amen.

*Please stand if you are able.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news: when we fail to be righteous,
God is merciful. When we fail to be merciful, **God invites us to try again.**
Again and again, **God moves closer to us.** Again and again, **God shows us the way.**
Thanks be to God for this unending love. **Amen.**

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Psalm Reading: Psalm 119:1-10 Barbara Hjorth

Gospel Reading: Luke 19:1-10

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Karen Kinney

"Repentance **and** Reparations: A Response to Mercy"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

Do you believe that one can repent and repair the harm they have caused? Why or why not?
What might allow true reconciliation to take place when a community is divided?

*SERMON HYMN #370

Just as I Am, Without One Plea WOODWORTH

1 Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

3 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

4 Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In a world that loves to cast blame and point fingers, Jesus loved by different rules. He offered mercy. He invited people to dinner. He told stories of love. He chose to see the best in others. We believe that small acts of mercy and compassion have ripple effects in our lives. We believe that small acts of righteousness and justice are integral to a life of faith. So like Christ, we believe in offering mercy, inviting people to dinner, telling stories of love, and choosing to see the best in others. With God's help, may it be so. Amen.

OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory My song shall be alway of the living-kindness Godfrey Sampson

Chancel Choir

My song shall be alway of the loving-kindness of the Lord :
with my mouth will I ever be shewing forth thy truth from one generation to another.

*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

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Feast of God (Responsive)

Great Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, God; you created all things, called them good, and put the universe into motion for the sake of love and redemption…In gratitude and faith, then, we gather at this table in your presence through the Spirit, and proclaim the mystery of our faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Intercessions

Consecration

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts and make this bread and this cup sustenance for our journey. By your grace, may we experience anew the call of Jesus to serve one another, especially the least of these. As Jesus taught us, so now we pray:

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 Cup

Communion Music Larghetto, op. 21 Charles Tournemire

Post-Communion Prayer

We thank you, O God, that through your Holy Spirit you have gathered us together and fed us with Jesus Christ. Send us now into the world in peace and loving service, bearing Christ's love in ministry through our words and actions, knowing that there is nothing in heaven or earth that can separate us from your love in Jesus Christ. Even so, Lord Jesus, quickly come. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN #261

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us O QUANTA QUALIA

1 God of compassion, in mercy befriend us;
Giver of grace for our needs all availing,
Wisdom and strength for each day do Thou send us,
Patience untiring and courage unfailing.

2 Wandering and lost,
Thou hast sought us and found us,
Stilled our rude hearts with Thy Word of consoling;
Wrap now Thy peace, like a mantle, around us,
Guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling.

3 How shall we stray, with Thy hand to direct us,
Thou who the stars in their courses art guiding?
What shall we fear, with Thy power to protect us,
We who walk forth in Thy greatness confiding?

*BENEDICTION

As you leave this place, may you find God in every messy middle. May you know that the world is bigger than two sides. May you trust that you are made in the image of God, and therefore, you contain multitudes. So may you move through this world with an open heart, with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone. God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between. Believe that good news, and go in peace.

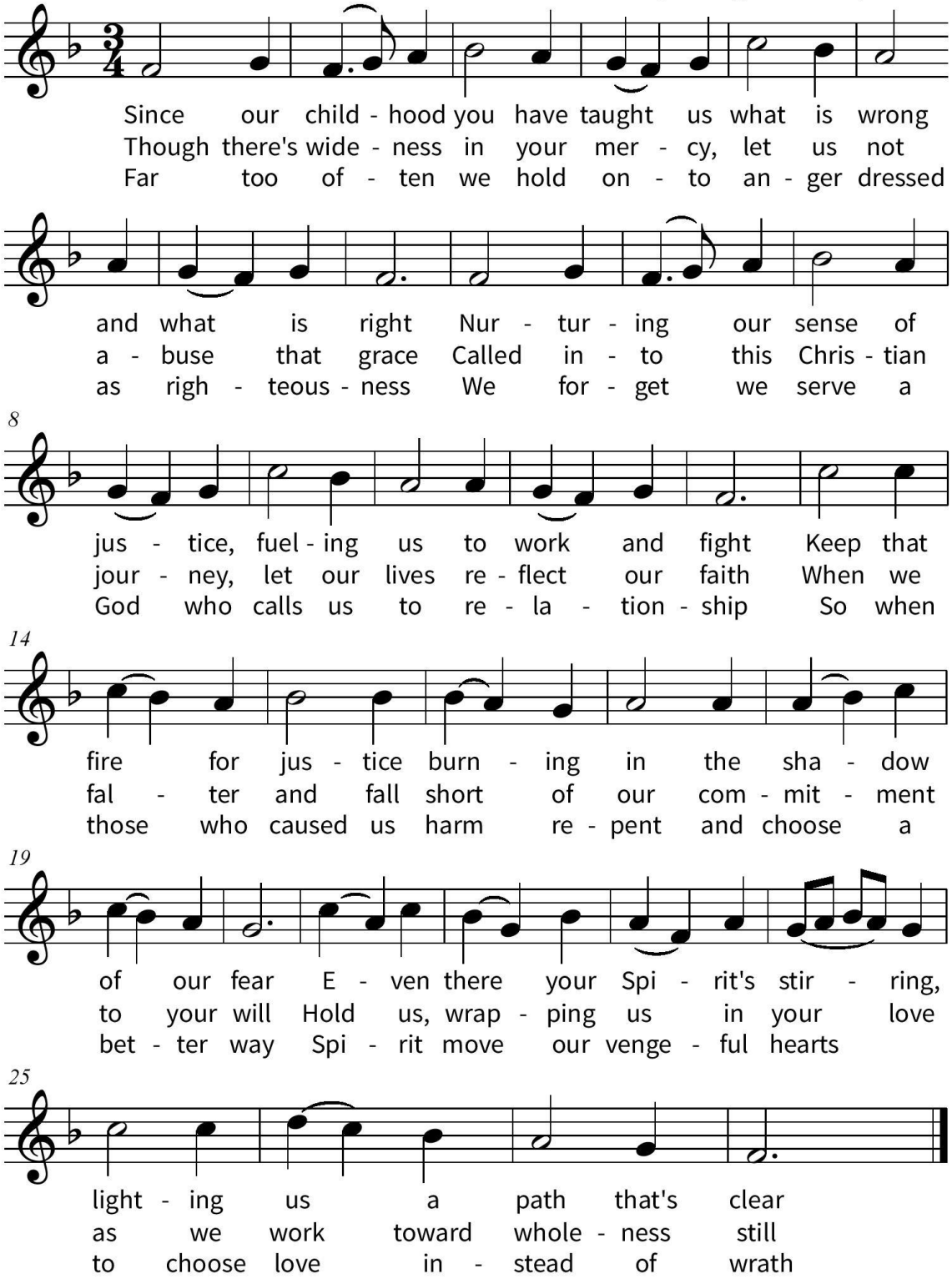
POSTLUDE Menuet, from *Suite Gothique*, Op. 25 Leon Boellman

Righteous Mercy

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D ("Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus")

Words by Anna Strickland, 2023

Music by Rowland H. Prichard, 1830;
harm. Ralph Vaugh Williams, 1906



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