FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Traditional Service
March 27, 2022

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Prelude, from *Prelude, Fugue, and Variation,* Op. 18 — Cesar Franck

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Before we were born,
All: Before we took our first breath,
One: Before the week started,
All: Before the year began,
One: Before we said, "I love you,"
All: Before we said, "I'm sorry,"
One: Before we figured out who we really are,
All: Before we figured out who we want to be,
One: Before it all—
All: God loved us.
One: Unconditionally and freely,
All: Fully and honestly—
One: God loves us.
All: Again and again, this is where our story begins.
One: Let us worship God!

GATHERING HYMN #267
All Things Bright and Beautiful — ROYAL OAK

* Please stand if you are able.

Refrain:
All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.

1 Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings:
God made their glowing colors,
God made their tiny wings. (Refrain)

2 The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset, and the morning That
brightens up the sky, (Refrain)

3 The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone. (Refrain)

4 God gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

CALL TO CONFESSION
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, we forget the beginning of the story -
that we were made from love, to be love, to give love.
We forget that first there was you, and you are love.
We forget that out of that love you created us.
We forget that from the very first day, you loved first.
We forget, because a love like that doesn't make sense to us.
Forgive our resistance to love ourselves and to love others.
Forgive our hesitation to trust that even we could be made good.
And forgive our tendency to pass that doubt on - from generation to generation.
Write a new beginning for us that roots our confidence in your unending love.
With hope we pray, again and again. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE John 3:14- 21 Judy Smullen

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

SERMON The Rev.Lindsey Altvater Clifton

"Again & Again, God Loves First"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN #438

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

1 Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

2 Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

3 We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

4 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Sadie Lynn Chadbourn, daughter of Lindsey and Phil Chadbourn

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

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 "Sanctus" from *Requiem*, Op 48 — Gabriel Faure

Chancel Choir

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth
heaven and earth are full of Thy glory
Hosanna in the highest.

*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.

SENDING HYMN

#369 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me — I'M GONNA LIVE

1 I'm gonna live so God can use
me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

2 I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

4 I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Mode de Re, from *Eight Modal Pieces* — Jean Langlais

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