FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Summer Worship
The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 25, 2024

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE II. "Rhosymedre" (Lovely) from *Three Preludes for Organ* Ralph Vaughan Williams

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives.
People: We need not look up to find God, we need only to look around:
Leader: within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.
People: We need not listen for distant thunder to find God, we need only listen to the music of life,
Leader: the words of children, the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat.
All: We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives. Let us worship God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN
God is Calling Through the Whisper *(see back page)* W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

EMBODIED CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #300
We Are One in the Spirit THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

*Please stand if you are able.

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 Psalm 23 (King James Version) Kate Arrington

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

SERMON Rev. Dr. Richard Smith

"God Revives Our Soul"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

*SERMON HYMN #170
The Lord's My Shepherd I'll Not Want

1 The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

2 My soul He doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.

3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear none ill;
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod
And staff my comfort still.

4 My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

5 Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God's love frees me to be the person I am without having to become more attractive, more intelligent, more popular.

God's love frees me to live in confidence, not needing to be self-absorbed, but ready to listen and to hear the stories of others.

God's love frees me to take risks, to surprise even myself with courage, sometimes to fall flat on my face- but always to move inward with knowledge that God is encouraging me.

God's love frees me to view the world not from the standpoint of wealth gained or ambition achieved, but from the perspective of relationships lived and human love shared.

God's love frees me to put my sins behind me, to know that no sin is too great or too small to be left open and healed by God's gentle touch.

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 His Mercy is More — Matt Papa/Matt Boswell

Contemporary Ensemble

*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 #354

Guide My Feet — GUIDE MY FEET

1 Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

2 Hold my hand while I run this race,
Hold my hand while I run this race,
Hold my hand while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

3 Stand by me while I run this race,
Stand by me while I run this race,
Stand by me while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

4 I'm Your child while I run this race,
I'm Your child while I run this race,
I'm Your child while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

5 Search my heart while I run this race,
Search my heart while I run this race,
Search my heart while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

6 Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Child of Love Ed Cash

Contemporary Ensemble

GATHERING

410 God Is Calling through the Whisper



This wide-ranging text reminds us of the many surprising and urgent ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth. In the third line of music it is especially effective at harnessing the momentum of the phrases that are each a note higher than the one before.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2003
MUSIC: Polish carol; harm. Wilbur Lee, 1958
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W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY
8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7
(this tune in a higher key, 128)