FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday Worship

September 25, 2022

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Open Up the Heavens — Jason Ingram
Contemporary Ensemble

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #276
Great is Thy Faithfulness — FAITHFULNESS

1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou
changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.

Refrain:
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

(Refrain)

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

(Refrain)

*Please stand if you are able.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

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: we fall so easily back into the logic of this world, and hesitate to go where Jesus goes, fearing it may cost us too much. Open our hearts and minds, Lord, so that we may know the fullness of life you intend for all of us, and have the faithfulness and strength to follow Christ into it with joy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Luke 9:52-61 JoAnne Turcotte

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

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Connecting the Dots: Call and Response"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN #419
How Clear Is Our Vocation Lord REPTON

1 How clear is our vocation, Lord,
When once we heed Your call:
To live according to Your word,
And daily learn, refreshed, restored,
That You are Lord of all
And will not let us fall.

2 But if, forgetful, we should find
Your yoke is hard to bear,
If worldly pressures fray the mind
And love itself cannot unwind
Its tangled skein of care:
Our inward life repair.

3 We mark Your saints, how they
became In hindrances more sure,
Whose joyful virtues put to shame
The casual way we wear Your name,
And by our faults obscure
Your power to cleanse and cure.

4 In what You give us, Lord, to do,
Together or alone,
In old routines or ventures new,
May we not cease to look to You--
The cross You hung upon--
All You endeavored done.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (the Apostles' Creed)

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

THE 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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Give Me the Faith — Christopher Norton

Chancel Choir

My talents, gifts, and graces, Lord,
Into thy blessed hands receive;
And let me live to preach thy word,
And let me to thy glory live;
My every sacred moment spend
In publishing the sinner's Friend.

I would the precious time redeem,
And longer live for this along,
To spend and to be spent for them
Who have not yet my Savior known;
Fully on these my mission prove,
And only breathe, to breathe thy love.

Give me the faith which can remove
And sink the mountain to a plain;
Give me the childlike praying love,
Which longs to build thy house again;
Thy love, let it my heart o'er-power,
And all my simple soul devour.

Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart
With boundless charity divine,
So shall I all my strength exert,
And love them with a zeal like thine,
And lead them to thy open side,
The sheep for whom the Shepherd died.

*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 #399

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight DUNLAP'S CREEK

1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
No gracious words we hear
From Christ Who spoke as none e'er spoke;
But we believe Him near.

2 We may not touch His hands and side,
Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice,
And cry, "My Lord and God!"

3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
And may our faith abound
To call on You when You are near
And seek where You are found:

4 That, when our life of faith is done,
In realms of clearer light
We may behold You as You are,
With full and endless sight.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Forever and a Day Raymond Badham

Contemporary Ensemble