FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost
Traditional Service
October 31, 2021

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Little Prelude and Fugue in G, BWV 557 J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Happy are those whose hope is in the Lord their God,
People: the One who made heaven and earth and sea, and all that is in them!
Leader: The Lord keeps faith forever;
People: **the Lord will reign for all generations!**
All: Come, let us worship God!

OPENING HYMN #260

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God EIN' FESTE BURG

1 A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils
filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we
tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his
doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly
powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
through Him Who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this
mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth
abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you bless us with an abundance of your grace that cannot be counted, so that no matter our circumstances, your love is far more than enough for us. Yet we still find ourselves consumed by anxiety; we put our trust in the things that are in our hands rather than the knowledge that we are in your hands, and we fear there is never enough. Forgive us, Lord; help us to recognize the breadth and depth of your grace and to trust in it, so that we may respond with lives filled with gratitude and generosity.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Luke 16:1-9 Betsy Simpson

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

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"On the Way: Standing at the Crossroads"

WE RESPOND

HYMN #396

O for a Closer Walk with God CAITHNESS

1 O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!

2 Return, O holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest!
I hate the sins that made Thee mourn
And drove Thee from my breast.

3 The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from Thy throne,
And worship only Thee.

4 So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH **(From *The Confession of 1967*)**

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. Jesus Christ is God with humanity. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.

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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing arr. James Q. Mulholland

Chancel Choir

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer:
Here by Thy great help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my yielded heart to Thee.
Let me know Thee in Thy fullness;
Guide me by Thy mighty hand,
Till, transformed, in Thine own image
In Thy presence I shall stand.

*Response - #592 OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

*Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN #430

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy DARWALL'S 148TH

1 Come sing O church in joy
Come join O church in song
For Christ the Lord has led us
Through the ages long
In bold accord
Come celebrate the journey now
And praise the Lord

2 Long years have come and gone
And still God reigns supreme
Empowering us to catch the vision
Dream the dream
In bold accord
Come celebrate the journey now
And praise the Lord

3 Let courage be our friend
Let wisdom be our guide
As we in mission
Magnify the Crucified
In bold accord
Come celebrate the journey now
And praise the Lord

4 Come sing O church in joy
Come join O church in song
For Christ the Lord has triumphed
Over the ages long
In bold accord
Come celebrate the journey now
And praise the Lord

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Little Prelude and Fugue in C, BWV 553 J. S. Bach

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