FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Third Sunday After Epiphany
Traditional Service
January 23, 2022

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE "Meditation" from *Four Voluntaries* Eric Smith

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord is my light and my salvation;
All: whom shall I fear?
One: The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
All: of whom shall I be afraid?
One: From our daily labors, the Lord summons us.
All: Freed from fear, we are bold to follow.
One: "Come! I will make you fishers of people."
All: We respond with gratitude and worship with praise!

OPENING HYMN #288

I Sing the Mighty Power of God ELLACOMBE

1 I sing the mighty power of God
That made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad
And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command,
And all the stars obey.

2 I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
Where'er I turn my eyes;
If I survey the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the skies!

3 There's not a plant or flower below
But makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
By order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee
Is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be,
Thou, God, art present there.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

On the shores of Galilee, Jesus calls Peter and Andrew, James and John. Immediately, they drop their nets, abandon their boats. Christ, you also call us. But we are slow to drop our excuses, our tasks, and our fears to follow you. Forgive us. And call to us again, we pray. Summon us to repent, to turn around, to be transformed by your voice so that we might follow you more fully and more faithfully, letting go of our anxiety and trusting that the kingdom of heaven has, indeed, come near. With courage, may we proclaim and live the reign of God each day.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Matthew 4:12-23 Nick Suarez

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

SERMON "Follow Me" The Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

WE RESPOND

HYMN #377

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

1 Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

Chorus
O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

2 You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
you will find there my nets and labor.
(Chorus)

3 You need my hands, full of caring
through my labors to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving.
(Chorus)

4 You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me.
(Chorus)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH adapted from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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 "Andante Espressivo" from *Four Voluntaries* Eric Smith

*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 #374

Lord, Make us Servants of Your Peace O WALY WALY

1 Lord, make us servants of your peace:
Where there is hate, may we sow love;
Where there is hurt, may we forgive;
Where there is strife, may we make one.

2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;
Where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
Where all is night, may we sow light;
Where all is tears, may we sow joy.

3 Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek
To be consoled, but to console,
Nor look to understanding hearts,
But look for hearts to understand.

4 May we not look for love's return,
But seek to love unselfishly,
For in our giving we receive,
And in forgiving are forgiven.

5 Dying, we live, and are reborn
Through death's dark night to endless day;
Lord, make us servants of your peace,
To wake at last in heaven's light.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Cornet Voluntary John Travers

Announcements:

- On Sunday, January 30 we will gather for a Combined Worship Service at 10 a.m., both in-person in the Sanctuary and livestreamed. It will be followed by the annual Congregational Meeting, offered in-person in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.
- Hearts N Minds, our adult ed class, will meet via Zoom only at 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 30.

If you would like to make a secure online donation to FPCB, you can visit fpc-bethlehem.org/donate, or use this QR code to go directly to that page (on your mobile phone, open the camera and point it at the QR code – it will take you to this website page).

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