FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost

November 12, 2023

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Prelude in G — Theodore Dubois

WELCOME

*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; the Lord will reign for all generations!
People: Let everyone rejoice in the Lord our God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #425
Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining — ABBOTT'S LEIGH

1 Lord of light, your name outshining all the stars and suns of space,
use our talents in your kingdom as the servants of your grace.
Use us to fulfill your purpose in the gift of Christ your Son.
Lord of light, as in highest heaven, so on earth Thy will be done.

2 By the toil of faithful workers in some far outlying field,
by the courage, where the radiance of the cross is still revealed,
by the victories of meekness, through reproach and suff'ring won.
Lord of light, as in highest heaven, so on earth Thy will be done.

*Please stand if you are able.

3 Grant that knowledge, still increasing, at your feet may lowly kneel.
With your grace our triumphs hallow, with your charity our zeal.
Lift the nations from the shadows to the gladness of the sun -
Lord of light, as in highest heaven, so on earth Thy will be done.

4 By the prayers of faithful watchers, never silent day or night,
by the cross of Jesus, bringing peace to all, and healing light,
by the love that passes knowledge, making all your children one,
Lord of light, as in highest heaven, so on earth Thy will be done.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, in Jesus Christ you invite us to follow you with lives of faith, community, purpose, and meaning. But we have a tendency to wander from your path; we turn away from others; we keep to ourselves at a safe distance. Forgive us, Lord; help us to hear your voice and follow, welcoming everyone we meet to join us on the journey, so that together we may reflect your love and grace into the world.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Matthew 22:15-22 Betsy Simpson

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Belong"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

*SERMON HYMN #436

We Are Your People (Verses 1, 2, 3, & 5) WHITFIELD

1 We are your people:
Lord, by Your grace,
You dare to make us Christ to our neighbors
of every nation and race.

2 Called to portray You, help us to live
Closer than neighbors, open to strangers,
able to clash and forgive.

3 Glad of tradition, help us to see
In all life's changing where You are leading,
Where our best efforts should be.

5 Lord, as we minister in different ways,
May all we're doing show that you're living,

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

MINUTE FOR MISSION Marie Rosenthal

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 Like a River in My Soul arr. Tim Osiek

Chancel Choir

I've got peace like a river,
Like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river,
Soothing river, calmly flow.
When the world closes in,
Feel the stillness within.
I've got peace like a river,
Like a river in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean,
Like an ocean in my soul.
I've got love like and ocean,
Endless ocean, deep and full.
When you're lost and alone,
Let the waves bring you home.
I've got love like an ocean,
Like and ocean in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain,
Like a fountain in my soul.
When your home nearly dies,
Just remember, once again
You shall rise!

I've got joy like a fountain,
Love like an ocean,
Peace like a river,
In my soul.

*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.

*Prayer of Dedication

*SENDING HYMN #435

We All Are One in Mission ES FLOG EIN KLEINS

1 We all are one in mission,
We all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united
By Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission
Compels us from above
To plan and work together
That all may know Christ's love.

2 We all are called for service
To witness in God's name;
Our ministries are different,
Our purpose is the same:
To touch the lives of others
By God's surprising grace
So every folk and nation
May feel God's warm embrace.

3 Now let us be united
And let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel
For God's redeeming word.
We all are one in mission,
We all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united
By Christ, the Lord of all.

*BENEDICTION

EXTENDED POSTLUDE Hermit Songs, Op. 29 Samuel Barber

Madison Zahorsky, Soprano

1. At Saint Patrick's Purgatory; 2. Church Bell at Night; 3. St. Ita's Vision; 4. The Heavenly Banquet: 5. The Crucifixion; 6. Sea-Snatch; 7. Promiscuity; 8. The Monk and His Cat; 9. (omitted); 10. The Desire for Hermitage