FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost
Traditional Service
November 7, 2021

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Carillon — Herbert Howells

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In worship we tell a story—
All: of how love and generosity changed the world.
One: In worship we tell a story—
All: of how we long to live more abundantly.
One: So may we remember who we are.
All: May we remember the saints who have loved and inspired us.
One: May we reimagine this world with God's eyes.
All: And may we work toward flourishing for all creation.
One: It is all that easy, and it is all that hard.
All: Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN — #356

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing — NETTLETON

1 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 God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In worship, we bring our hearts back to you, O God, our thoughts back to love, and our prayers back to peace. We try to stay in this place, but we confess, it's never that easy for us. We consider generosity, and then hold back. We approach justice, but then we get scared. We glimpse love, but then we lose our way. Forgive us, O God. By the Spirit and in the company of the saints gone on before us, bring us back to this moment, guide us back to your way, and help us to be more faithful people.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE John 21:1-19 Phil Fair

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

SERMON The Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

"On the Way: We're Going Fishing"

WE RESPOND

HYMN #710

We Lift Our Voices (see insert) OFFERING

We lift our voices
We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You
We are an offering
Lord use our voices
Lord use our hands
Lord use our lives they are Yours
We are an offering

All that we have
All that we are
All that we hope to be
We give to You
We give to You

We lift our voices
We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You
We are an offering
We are an offering

AFFIRMATIONS OF FAITH — The Confession of 1967

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of human minds. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals God's love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to service the purpose of God's love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory "The Lord is My Shepherd" (Psalm 23) — Howard Goodall

Chancel Choir – see insert

*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

ALL SAINTS DAY REMEMBRANCE & THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give thanks and praise.
Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise…
As our Savior Christ has taught us, so now we pray:

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Bread of Mercy Broken — Healy Willan

CLOSING HYMN #526

For All the Saints — Verses 1-4 — SINE NOMINE

1 For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Postlude on Song 22 (Orlando Gibbons) — Charles V. Stanford

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We Lift Our Voices 710

We Are an Offering



This praise and worship song can best be understood as reflecting on and expanding 1 Chronicles 29:14b: "For all things come of you, [O Lord,] and of your own have we given you." There are also echoes of Paul's appeal for Christians to be living sacrifices (Romans 12:1).

TEXT and MUSIC: Dwight Liles, 1984
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OFFERING
Irregular

Offertory
"The Lord is My Shepherd" (Psalm 23) **Howard Goodall**
Chancel Choir

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are comfort I need to know
And I will trust in You alone,
Yes I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.