FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 10, 2023

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Elegy George Thalben-Ball

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things!
People: God has remembered God's steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
People: **Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #150
Come, Christians, Join to Sing MADRID

1 Come, Christians, join to sing
Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King;
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice;
Alleluia! Amen!

2 Come, lift your hearts on high;
Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky;
Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend;
To us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end;
Alleluia! Amen!

*Please stand if you are able.

3 Praise yet our Christ again;
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain;
Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore
His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore,
"Alleluia! Amen!"

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving God, you have been faithful to us and to your promises throughout the ages, giving us life and purpose, calling us to be your people, and caring for us as our God. We confess that we often turn aside from your ways and seek our own paths. Forgive us, Lord; give us the resilience and courage to worship and follow you alone, that we may live in your grace and radiate your love into the world.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Matthew 4:12-23 Joanne Kelhart

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

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"An Off-Road Faith: Turn and Follow"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN #413
All Who Love and Serve Your City CHARLESTOWN

1 All who love and serve your city,
all who bear its daily stress,
all who cry for peace and justice,
all who curse and all who bless:

2 In your day of wealth and plenty,
wasted work and wasted play,
call to mind the word of Jesus,
"You must work while it is day."

3 For all days are days of judgment,
and the Lord is waiting still,
drawing near a world that spurns him,
offering peace from Calvary's hill.

4 Risen Lord, shall yet the city
be the city of despair?
Come today, our judge, our glory.
Be its name "The Lord is there!"

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 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 Air in D Major — John Battishill

*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 — #421

The Church of Christ in Every Age — WAREHAM

1 The church of Christ in every age,
Beset by change but Spirit led,
Must claim and test its heritage
And keep on rising from the dead.

2 Across the world, across the street,
The victims of injustice cry
For shelter and for bread to eat,
And never live until they die.

3 Then let the servant church arise,
A caring church that longs to be
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,
And clothed in Christ's humanity.

4 For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,
Can cure the fever in our blood,
And teach us how to share our bread
And feed the starving multitude.

5 We have no mission but to serve
In full obedience to our Lord:
To care for all, without reserve,
And spread his liberating word.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Fugue No. 3 from *Six Fugues on the name of BACH*, Op. 60 Robert Schumann