FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
Fourth Sunday After Easter

May 7, 2023

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE "Prière à Notre-Dame", from *Suite Gothique, Op 25* Leon Boellmann

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things!
People: The Lord has revealed his victory in the sight of all nations!
Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
People: Let the waters clap their hands, let the hills sing together for joy!
All: Come, let us worship God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #383

My Faith Looks Up to Thee OLIVET

1 My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine:
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

2 May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;
As Thou hast died for me,
O may my love to Thee
Pure warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!

*Please stand if you are able.

3 While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

4 When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll.
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear. We pass by those who are poor, homeless, and hungry; we avoid those who are sick or grieving; we ignore the cries of the oppressed. We care most for those who are most like us, and we overlook or question the needs of those who are different. Forgive us, Lord, and turn us in new directions. Help us to trust in your power to lead us, transform us, and enable us to both receive and share the good news of your grace, justice, mercy, and peace. Through Christ we pray.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE John 10:1-10 Phil Fair

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"The Gospel of Deep Breathing"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN #171

The King of Love My Shepherd Is ST. COLUMBIA

Verses 1, 2, 4 & 5

1 The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.

5 Thou spreadest a table in my sight;
Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(A Brief Statement of Faith [excerpts])*

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. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Ah, Jesus Lord, Thy Love to Me arr. David N. Johnson

Chancel Choir

Ah, Jesus Lord, thy love to me
No thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O bind my thankful heart to thee,
And reign without a rival there.
Thine wholly, thine alone,
I'd live, Myself to thee entirely give.

O grant that nothing in my soul
May dwell, but thy pure love alone;
Ah, may thy love possess me whole,
My joy, my treasure, and my crown.
All coldness from my heart remove:
My ev'ry act, word, thought, be love.

O Lord, how gracious is thy way!
All fear before thy presence flies;
Care, anguish, sorrow, melt away.
Where e're thy healing hands arise!
O Jesus, nothing may I see,
And nothing seek, desire, but thee.

*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

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 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

Communion Music Elevation for a Communion Service Alexander Guilmant

*SENDING HYMN #387

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us BRADBURY

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

2 Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.

3 Early let us seek Thy favor;
Early let us do Thy will;
Blessèd Lord and only Savior,
With Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Festival Voluntary, Op. 87 Flor Peeters