

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Online Traditional Service

March 29, 2020



The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Prelude on an Irish Church Melody, Op. 101, No. 6 C. V. Stanford

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN

The Church of Christ in Every Age Verses 1, 3, 4, & 5

#421

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.

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.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving God, in Jesus Christ you appointed us to bear fruit that will last, promising to abide in us as we abide in you. But abiding is difficult for us. We want to be in control, especially when things are beyond our control. Help us to abide in Christ, Lord, especially in this anxious times, so that our whole being may be rooted in you, and the fruit we bear may fill those who receive it with your love.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE John 15:1-17 (selected verses)

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM Ave Verum Corpus, K. 618

Wolfgang A. Mozart

Hail, true body,

Born of the virgin Mary;

Who has truly suffered, slaughtered

On the Cross for humanity.

Whose side was pierced,

Pouring out water and blood.

Be a foretaste for us

During our ordeal of death.

SERMON

The Rev. J.C. Austin

“Abide in Place”

WE RESPOND

HYMN

#419

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord Verses 1, 2 & 4

REPTON

1: How clear is our vocation, Lord,

When once we heed Your call:

To live according to Your word,

And daily learn, refreshed, restored,

That You are Lord of all

And will not let us fall.

2: But if, forgetful, we should find
Your yoke is hard to bear,
If worldly pressures fray the mind
And love itself cannot unwind
Its tangled skein of care:
Our inward life repair.

4: In what You give us, Lord, to do,
Together or alone,
In old routines or ventures new,
May we not cease to look to You--
The cross You hung upon--
All You endeavored done.

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 II. Adagio, from Sonata No. 8 "Pathetique"

L. van Beethoven

*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

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

#343

BEECHER

1: Called as partners in Christ's service
Called to ministries of grace
We respond with deep commitment

Fresh new lines of faith to trace
May we learn the art of sharing
Side by side and friend with friend
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfil God's chosen end.

2: Christ's example Christ's inspiring
Christ's clear call to work and worth
Let us follow never faltering
Reconciling folk on earth
Men and women richer poorer
All God's people young and old
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold.

3: Thus new patterns for Christ's mission
In a small or global sense
Help us bear each other's burdens
Breaking down each wall or fence
Words of comfort words of vision
Words of challenge said with care
Bring new power and strength for action
Make us colleagues free and fair.

4: So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife
Make us partners in our living
Our compassion to increase
Messengers of faith thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

setting J. Bert Carlson