FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
Transfiguration Sunday

February 19, 2023

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Adagio in E Major — Frank Bridge

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord is great; he is exalted over all peoples.
People: Let us praise God with thanks and joy!
Leader: The Lord is a lover of justice, and establishes equity and righteousness over all.
People: Let us praise God with thanks and joy!
Leader: Praise the Lord our God, and worship him alone.
ALL: Let us worship God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise — ST. DENIO

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

4 Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

*Please stand if you are able.

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving God, you transfigured Jesus on a mountaintop into a vision of your glory, and told his disciples to listen to him. Yet we confess that we often struggle to obey that call. We listen to our fears, our desires, our anxieties, which often lead us away from you. We listen to others who tell us that the ways of the world are the only ones that make sense or get results. Forgive us, Lord; give us ears to listen to Jesus anew, and hearts to follow him, that we may reflect your glory in the world.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Matthew 17:1-9 Steve Simmons

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Turn and Face the Strange"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN #313

Come Down, O Love Divine DOWN AMPNEY

1 Come down, O Love divine,
Seek out this soul of mine
And visit it with Your own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, Your holy flame bestowing.

2 O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let Your glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

3 And so the yearning strong
With which the soul will long
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess God's grace,
Till Love creates a place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(*from "A Brief Statement of Faith")

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory "Locus iste" (This place was made by God) Anton Bruckner

Chancel Choir

Locus iste a Deo factus est,	This place was made by God,
inaestimabile sacramentum,	a priceless sacrament;
irreprehensibilis est.	it is without reproach.

*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 #75

O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair DEO GRACIAS

(Verses 1, 2, 4 and 5)

1 O wondrous sight, O vision fair
Of glory that the church shall share,
Which Christ upon the mountain shows,
Where brighter than the sun He glows!

2 From age to age the tale declare,
How with the three disciples there,
Where Moses and Elijah meet,
The Lord holds converse high and sweet.

4 With shining face and bright array
Christ deigns to manifest today
What glory shall be theirs above
Who joy in God with perfect love.

5 And faithful hearts are raised on high
By this great vision's mystery,
For which in joyful strains we raise
The voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Fanfare from *La Peri* Paul Dukas/ arr. Robert Gower