FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Worship
The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 22, 2024

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Prelude on "Tallis Canon" setting Richard Purvis

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High,
All: To declare your steadfast love in the morning and your faithfulness by night,
One: To the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.
All: For you, O Lord, have made us glad by your work; at the works of your hands we sing for joy. With glad and grateful hearts, let us worship God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #482
Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty LOBE DEN HERREN

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration!

2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

*Please stand if you are able

3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how much we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Leviticus 25: 1-7 and Matthew 18: 21-35 Phil Fair

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

SERMON Rev. Dr. Stephen Simmons

"Giving It a Rest"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

*SERMON HYMN #261
God of Compassion, In Mercy Befriend Us O QUANTA QUALIA

1 God of compassion, in mercy befriend us;
Giver of grace for our needs all availing,
Wisdom and strength for each day do Thou send us,
Patience untiring and courage unfailing.

2 Wandering and lost, Thou hast sought us and found us,
Stilled our rude hearts with Thy Word of consoling;
Wrap now Thy peace, like a mantle, around us,
Guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling.

3 How shall we stray, with Thy hand to direct us,
Thou who the stars in their courses art guiding?
What shall we fear, with Thy power to protect us,
We who walk forth in Thy greatness confiding?

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*A New Creed* from the United Church of Canada)

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINUTE FOR MISSION

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 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name arr. James Mulholland

Chancel Choir

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all!

O seed of Israel's chosen race
now ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all!

Let every tongue and every tribe
responsive to his call,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all!

Oh, that with all the sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

*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 #420

God of Grace and God of Glory CWM RHONDDA

1 God of grace and God of glory,
On Thy people pour Thy power;
Crown Thine ancient church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
Scorn Thy Christ, assail Thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

3 Cure Thy children's warring madness,
Bend our pride to Thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

4 Set our feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces,
Pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not them nor Thee!
That we fail not them nor Thee!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune Alfred V. Fedak