FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

February 12, 2023

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Prelude in B flat — George Thalban-Ball

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come, for God gathers us here, with that community called faith:
People: where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.
Leader: We come, for God welcomes us here into that home called grace:
People: **where the vulnerable are clothed in robes of hope; where the stranger is embraced as neighbor and friend.**
Leader: We come, for God reunites us here, siblings in that family called love:
People: where the least of these belong, where all together, we worship God.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #288

I Sing the Mighty Power of God — ELLACOMBE

1 I sing the mighty power of God
That made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad
And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command,
And all the stars obey.

2 I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
Where'er I turn my eyes;
If I survey the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the skies!

*Please stand if you are able.

3 There's not a plant or flower below
But makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
By order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee
Is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be,
Thou, God, art present there.

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have wandered from your way of truth and life. You call us to share all that we have and work together for the common good, but we hoard up treasures for ourselves and deny others their daily bread. You call us to set the captives free and seek justice for the oppressed, but we live in fear of our neighbors and hide ourselves from our own kin. You call us to walk in newness of life and to be witnesses to the resurrection, but we dwell in the valley of dry bones and keep silent about your saving love. Forgive us, God of grace. Set us free from sin, death and fear so that we may serve you with gladness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:31-46 Bob Hunsicker
Leader: The word of the Lord;
People: Thanks be to God.

PROCLAIMING TOGETHER The Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton
Marc Rittle, Executive Director, New Bethany Ministries

"The Least of These"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN #301

Let Us Build a House ALL ARE WELCOME

From *Glory to God* (See Insert)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(*from the *Iona Community Worship Book*)

Leader: Do you believe in God?

People: We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn; in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place: into action, into vulnerability, and into the streets. We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line; to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation; to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of hope. Amen.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Carol Freebairn and Meggie Mizelle

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 Morning Has Broken Jack Noble White

Chancel Choir

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from Heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day

*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 #747

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth ENVIADO SOY DE DIOS

From *Glory to God* (See Insert)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Fugue and March on "Fly Eagles, Fly" arr. S. Katzenmoyer