FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
October 23, 2022

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE "Master Tallis's Testament" Herbert Howells

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song!
People: Sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Leader: Sing, and give praise to God's name;
People: tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.
All: Come, let us worship God!

*GATHERING HYMN #435
We All Are One in Mission ES FLOG EIN KLEINS

1 We all are one in mission,
We all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united
By Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission
Compels us from above
To plan and work together
That all may know Christ's love.

2 We all are called for service
To witness in God's name;
Our ministries are different,
Our purpose is the same:
To touch the lives of others
By God's surprising grace,
So every folk and nation
May feel God's warm embrace.

*Please stand if you are able.

3 Now let us be united
Now let us be a vessel
We all are one in mission,
Our varied gifts united
And let our song be heard.
For God's redeeming word.
We all are one in call,
By Christ, the Lord of all.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you promise to constantly renew us with the power of your Spirit, to strengthen us and guide us as your servant people into the future you intend for us. But when we grow uncertain or anxious, we find it easier sometimes to find comfort in what was, rather than hope in what will be. Forgive us, and give us hearts of courage and faith, that we may trust in your promises and embody your love as we seek to follow your will.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 62:1-7, 10-11 Phil Fair

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

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Fruit that Will Last: The Once and Future Church"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN #442
The Church's One Foundation AURELIA

1 The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the word.
From heaven He came and sought
her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

2 Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder
This world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

4 Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
May live eternally.

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

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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 God of All Nations — David N. Johnson

Chancel Choir

*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.

*SENDING HYMN #343

Called as Partners in Christ's Service — 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 fulfill 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 Trumpet Voluntary in D Major — John Stanley