FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Worship Service
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 12, 2025

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE "Mode de Re", from *Eight Modal Preludes* Jean Langlais

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to hear the story of God's faithfulness to past generations.
But we also look to the future as well as the past.
The God who was with our ancestors is with us as well.
Then we can go forward in hope. Whatever else fails, God remains faithful.
Nothing can separate us from the love of God! Praise be to God!

- Ruth C. Duck, *Flames of the Spirit* (New York: The Pilgrim Press, 1985)

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN DARWALL'S 148TH

Christ Is Our Cornerstone *(see insert)*

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and beloved God, you promise us your Spirit – a constant companion, a wise guide, a source of courage and peace. Yet we confess that we often close our hearts to your presence. We cling to control when you ask us to trust, and we choose comfort over calling. You lead us to those in need, but we hesitate to help. You open doors for justice, but we walk past them in awkward silence. You whisper truth, but we turn up the volume of living our lives. Forgive us, Spirit of Truth. Unclench our hands. Unblock our ears. Unbind our hearts. And wherever we are – wherever you send us – help us walk in your Way. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Beloved of God, hear this Good News: The Spirit of Truth is not distant or demanding, but near, gentle, and steadfast.

By the Spirit's grace, we are forgiven, renewed, and never alone. Amen.

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 30:1-5 Betsy Simpson

Hebrews 11:39-12:3

Epistles: Romans 1:20, Ephesians 3:17-18

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Karen Kinney

"Looking to Jesus, Surrounded by Saints"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

What stories of our faithful past do you have? What makes you hopeful for our future? How have you seen saints, including yourself, building our mission and ministry? Where do you feel called to serve?

*SERMON HYMN #364

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God GRAND ISLE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP AND OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory My Joy, My Life, My Crown! Bruce Montgomery

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN

Rejoice in God's Saints (*see insert* – from *Glory to God)* OLD 104TH

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Finale - Fuga, Sonata No. 6 Felix Mendelssohn

You're welcome to stay and enjoy the Postlude or to depart while the music is played.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

4 Christ Is Our Cornerstone

DARWALL'S 148th 6.6.6.6.8.8



Text: "Angularis fundamentum lapis" (Rome), ca. 7th c.; trans. John Chandler (England), *Hymns of the Primitive Church*, 1837, alt.
Music: John Darwall (England), *New Universal Psalmodist*, 1770

Rejoice in God's Saints 732



A more generally applicable version of a text written for the 600th anniversary of Julian of Norwich's *Revelations of Divine Love* in 1973, this hymn uses a tune created for the Scotsman William Kethe's paraphrase of Psalm 104, which appeared in several 16th-century psalters.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1973; rev. 1977
MUSIC: Ravenscroft's *Whole Booke of Psalmes,* 1621; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 1997
Text © 1973, 1980 Hope Publishing Company
Music Harm. © 1997 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

OLD 104TH
10.10.11.11
(alternate tune: LAUDATE DOMINUM)