FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Prelude in E flat — Hubert Perry

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things!
People: The Lord has revealed his victory in the sight of all nations!
Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
People: let the waters clap their hands, let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #424

O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns Be Rising — CHARTERHOUSE

1 O Jesus Christ, may grateful hymns be rising,
In every city for Your love and care;
Inspire our worship, grant the glad surprising
That Your blest Spirit rouses everywhere.

2 Grant us new courage, sacrificial, humble,
Strong in Your strength to venture and to dare;
To lift the fallen, guide the feet that stumble.
Seek out the lonely and God's mercy share.

3 Show us Your Spirit, brooding o'er each city,
As You once wept above Jerusalem,
Seeking to gather all in love and pity,
And healing those who touch Your garment's hem.

*Please stand if you are able.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious and Loving God, in Jesus Christ you appointed us to bear fruit that will last, promising to abide in us as we abide in you. But abiding is difficult for us. We want to be in control, especially when things are beyond our control. Help us to abide in Christ, Lord, especially in this anxious times, so that our whole being may be rooted in you, and the fruit we bear may fill those who receive it with your love.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE John 15:1-8 Steve Simmons

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Abiding, In and Out"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

*SERMON HYMN #508

For the Bread Which You Have Broken KINGDOM

1 For the bread which You have broken,
For the wine which You have poured,
For the words which You have spoken,
Now we give You thanks, O Lord.

2 By this promise that You love us,
By Your gift of peace restored,
By Your call to heaven above us,
Hallow all our lives, O Lord.

3 With the saints who now adore You
Seated at the heavenly board,
May the Church still waiting for You
Keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.

4 In Your service, Lord, defend us;
In our hearts keep watch and ward;
In the world to which You send us
Let Your kingdom come, O Lord.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from 1 Corinthians 15)

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory My Song is Love Unknown arr. David Schack

Chancel Choir

My song is love unknown–
my Savior's love to me;
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne
salvation to bestow;
but men made strange, and none
the longed for Christ would know.
But oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed,
who at my need His life did spend!

Here might I stay and sing–
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

*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

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise…

As our Savior Christ has taught us, so we pray:

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Communion Music Bread of Mercy Broken — Healey Willan

*SENDING HYMN #389

O Jesus, I Have Promised — NYLAND

1 O Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If Thou wilt be my Guide.

2 O let me feel Thee near me!
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

3 O let me hear Thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self will.
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou Guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, Thou hast promised
To all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory
There shall Thy servant be.
And Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my Friend.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Fugue in F Minor — Charles Burney