FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Traditional Service
February 20, 2022

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Elevation, Op. 39 No. 1 Alexander Guilmant

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Our salvation is from the Lord!
People: God is our refuge in times of trouble!
Leader: Commit your way to the Lord; trust in the Lord, and God will act.
People: God will make our vindication shine like the light of the noonday sun!
All: Come, let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN #421

The Church of Christ in Every Age
Verses 1,2,3 & 5

WAREHAM

1 The church of Christ in every age,
Beset by change but Spirit led,
Must claim and test its heritage
And keep on rising from the dead.

2 Across the world, across the street,
The victims of injustice cry
For shelter and for bread to eat,
And never live until they die.

3 Then let the servant church arise,
A caring church that longs to be
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,
And clothed in Christ's humanity.

5 We have no mission but to serve
In full obedience to our Lord:
To care for all, without reserve,
And spread His liberating word.

* Please stand if you are able.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving God, in His teachings Jesus called us to do to others as we would have them do to us. He said we should love our enemies, be merciful, and not judge or condemn. Yet we feel justified in withholding love and mercy from those who hate us; we feel vindicated by judging those who judge us. Lord, fill us with Your Spirit of grace and mercy, so that we may truly know Your love and embody and share it in everything we say and do.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 6:27-38 Joanne Kelhart

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON "Measuring Down" The Rev. J.C. Austin

WE RESPOND

*HYMN #358

Help Us Accept Each Other BARONITA

1 Help us accept each other
As Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother,
Each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
And bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted
And meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O Lord, Your lessons,
As in our daily life
We struggle to be human
And search for hope and faith
Teach us to care for people,
For all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them
Or as they may become.

3 Let Your acceptance change us,
So that we may be moved
In living situations
To do the truth in love;
To practice Your acceptance
Until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness
And laughter's healing art.

4 Lord, for today's encounters
With all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance,
For righteousness and bread,
We need new eyes for seeing,
New hands for holding on:
Renew us with Your Spirit;
Lord, free us, make us one!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 — Lead me, Lord — Samuel Sebastian Wesley
Chancel Choir

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,
that makest me dwell in safety.

Teach me, Lord, teach me truly how to live,
that I may come to know..... thee,
and in thy presence serve thee with gladness,
and sing songs of praise to thy glory.

*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

*CLOSING HYMN #3866

O for a World AZMON

1 O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.

2 O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.

3 We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.

4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.

5 O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" setting J. Bert Carlson

Announcements:

- We are continuing the collection of donations of canned tuna and chicken to share with our neighbors at Turning Point and New Bethany food banks. There is a container in the Kirk Center. You can also make a financial contribution; whether by check or online at fpc-bethlehem.org/give, note "Souper Bowl" in the memo area.
- For this Wednesday, February 23 we will conclude our three-part series on "What Does It Mean to Confess the Faith Today?" led by The Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton and The Rev. Dr. Steve Simmons. All are welcome, even if you have not attended the two previous sessions. To join the Zoom presentation beginning at 7 p.m.: bit.ly/3aeqLLD.
- We are incredibly grateful for monetary donations to help us meet the ongoing needs of our Afghan refugee family - Baz, Mursal, Taib, and Bahar. If you are willing and able to make a contribution, you can do so online through the church's "Give" page or with a gift on an upcoming Sunday. However you make your gift, please label it "Refugee Family Support" so that it can be accounted for and allocated correctly. It would also help our finance office if your designated gift is made separately from any regular offerings.

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