

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

Ascension Sunday

Online Traditional Service

May 24, 2020



The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE V. Andante Maestoso, from 6 Short Preludes, Op. 101 C. V. Stanford

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN #150
Come, Christians, Join to Sing MADRID

1 Come, Christians, join to sing
Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King;
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice;
Alleluia! Amen!

2 Come, lift your hearts on high;
Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky;
Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend;
To us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end;
Alleluia! Amen!

3 Praise yet our Christ again;
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain;
Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore
His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore,
"Alleluia! Amen!"

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFSSION

PRAYER OF CONFSSION

Gracious and Loving God, you call us to lives filled with your grace and purpose, sharing and embodying your love in how we treat others and respond to the joys and sorrows of our lives. But we confess there are many times that the well of our patience, our joy, our prayers, and our gratitude runs dry. Lord, fill us again with your Spirit of love, so that may rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances, knowing that you are with us and for us always and everywhere.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

SPECIAL MUSIC "Pie Jesu", from Requiem, Op. 48

Gabriel Faure

Rebecca Ripley, Soprano

Merciful Jesus, Lord, grant them rest
grant them rest, eternal rest.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE 1 Thessalonians 5:15-24

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON

The Rev. J.C. Austin

"The Grammar of Grace"

WE RESPOND

HYMN

We Are Your People

#436

WHITFIELD

Verses 1, 2, 3, 5

1 We are your people:
Lord, by Your grace,
You dare to make us Christ to our neighbors
of every nation and race.

2 Called to portray You, help us to live
Closer than neighbors, open to strangers,
able to clash and forgive.

3 Glad of tradition, help us to see
In all life's changing where You are leading,
Where our best efforts should be.

5 Lord, as we minister in different ways,
May all we're doing show that you're living,
meeting Your love with our praise.

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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory "Aspiration"

John E. West

*Response - #592

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

*Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

#155

DARWALL'S 148TH

1 Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
And triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

2 God's kingdom cannot fail,
Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

3 Rejoice in glorious hope!
For Christ the Judge shall come
To glorify the saints
For their eternal home:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Ite, Missa Est" from Missa Solemnis (1944)

Zoltan Kodaly