FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Sicilienne — Maria von Paradis/arr. R. Gower

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.
People: if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us
Leader: Let us join together in the strength and certainty of God's love;
People: Come, let us worship God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #303
Jesus, Lover of My Soul — ABERYSTWYTH

1 Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last!

2 Other refuge have I none;
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, ah! leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
With the shadow of Thy wing.

*Please stand if you are able.

3 Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
More than all in Thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am,
Thou art full of truth and grace.

4 Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart;
Rise to all eternity.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God, in Jesus Christ you broke the chains of sin and death for us, setting us free to live in love with you and one another. But we confess that too often our love crumbles under the weight of our fear. We fear the uncertainty of the future, and the burden of the past. We fear those who think, look, and act differently from ourselves. In your mercy, forgive us our sin, and take away our fear. Strengthen our hearts and fill them with your love anew, that we may share your love through our lives and ministry.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Acts 10 (selected verses) Linda Filipovits
Leader: The word of the Lord;
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"The Gospel According to Food"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

*SERMON HYMN #306
Fairest Lord Jesus CRUSADERS' HYMN

1 Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God to earth come down,
Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

2 Fair are the meadows,
Fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of 1967)

When the gospel is proclaimed and believed, the Spirit brings God 's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them. The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides men and women in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries. Their strength is in their confidence that God's purpose rather than human schemes will finally prevail. Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

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 At the Name of Jesus Ralph Vaughan Williams

Chancel Choir

At the name of Jesus,
Every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess Him
King of glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure
We should call Him Lord,
Who from the beginning
Was the mighty Word.

At His voice creation
Sprang at once to sight,
All the angel faces,
All the hosts of light,
Thrones and wide dominions,
Stars upon their way,
All the heav'nly orders,
In their great array.

Humbled for a season,
To receive a name
From the lips of sinners
Unto whom He came,
Faithfully He bore it,
Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious
When from death He passed.

Bore it up triumphant
With its human light,
Through all ranks of creatures,
To the central height,
To the throne of Godhead,
To the Father's breast;
Filled it with the glory
Of that perfect rest.

Name Him, christians, name Him,
With love strong as death
But with awe and wonder,
And with bated breath!
He is God the Savior,
He is Christ the Lord,
Ever to be worshiped,
Trusted and adored.

In your hearts enthrone Him;
There let Him subdue
All that is not holy,
All that is not true;
Crown Him as your captain
In temptation's hour;
Let His will enfold you
In its light and power.

Christians, this Lord Jesus
Shall return again,
With His Father's glory,
With His angel train;
For all wreaths of empire
Meet upon His brow,
And our hearts confess Him
King of glory now.

*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 #383

My Faith Looks Up to Thee OLIVET

1 My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine:
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

2 May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;
As Thou hast died for me,
O may my love to Thee
Pure warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!

3 While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

4 When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll.
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE V. "*Voluntary*" from Baroque Suite Seth Bingham

Flowers given by Gretchen and George Campbell in memory of their parents