FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

# Traditional Service
# The Third Sunday of Lent

## March 3, 2024

## *The Service for the Lord's Day*

*WE GATHER*

PRELUDE Prelude on "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand" arr. Jean Langlais

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters, the courageous and the fearful; the hungry and the hopeful, the impatient and the reserved.
**People: God welcomes the young and the old, the poets and the prophets, the faithful and the tired, the curious and the convicted.**
Leader: Wherever you are on your journey, wherever your boat is at sea, there is room for all to gather here.
**People: This is God's house. Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #489

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty UNSER HERRSCHER

**1** Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for God who answers prayer;
O how blessèd is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace!

**2** Gracious God, I come before Thee,
Come Thou also down to me;
Where we find Thee and adore Thee,
There a heaven on earth must be;
To my heart O enter Thou,
Let it be Thy temple now.

*Please stand if you are able.

**3** Speak, O Lord, and I will hear Thee,
Let Thy will be done indeed;
May I undisturbed draw near Thee,
While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows,
Here is balm for all our woes.

## *WE CONFESS*

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, there are days that threaten to swallow us, days when the storms of life feel too big. In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our boats in fear, spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you. Forgive us for doubting ourselves. Forgive us for doubting you. Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us, so that we may be free to embody the light of your love in everything we do. With hope in our hearts we pray.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## *WE LISTEN*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Matthew 14:22-33 Jane Masters
Leader: The word of the Lord;
**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Jesus Goes Rock Skipping"

## *WE RESPOND*

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

*SERMON HYMN #391
Take My Life (Verses 1, 2, 3 & 6) HENDON

**1** Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

**2** Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

**3** Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

**6** Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER — Aileen Wright, by Reaffirmation of Faith

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

OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Sing a Song of Joy — Jane Marshall

Chancel Choir

Sing a song of joy,
Praise our God with mirth.
His flock who can destroy?
Is He not Lord of heaven and earth?

Sing we then secure,
Tuning well our strings,
With voice as echo pure
Let us renown the King of Kings.

He the stars directs
That in order stand.
Heaven and earth protects
He that framed them with His hand?

First who taught the day
From the east to rise?
Whom the sun obey
When in seas his glory dies?

All that dread Hs name,
And His hests observe,
His arm will shield from shame,
Their steps from truth shall never swerve.

Let us then rejoice,
Sounding loud His praise,
So will He hear our voice,
And bless on earth our peaceful days.

Sing a song of Joy!

*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 Andante Religioso, from Sonata No. 4 Felix Mendelssohn

## *SENDING HYMN #387

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us BRADBURY

**1** Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

**2** Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.

**3** Early let us seek Thy favor;
Early let us do Thy will;
Blessèd Lord and only Savior,
Eith Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune on "Gaudeamus Pariter" arr. David Lasky