FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Combined Worship Service
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

January 28, 2024

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Child of Love — Ed Cash

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #421

The Church of Christ in Every Age — 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.

4 For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,
Can cure the fever in our blood,
And teach us how to share our bread
And feed the starving multitude.

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.

WE CONFESS

*Please stand if you are able.

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving God, you call us together as your people, telling us not to be afraid, and inviting us to follow Jesus in serving and healing the world. Yet we do still fear, Lord; we fear loss; we fear uncertainty; we fear unfamiliarity. Strengthen our hearts with your Spirit, Lord, that we may not simply endure the journey, but thrive in the midst of it; that we may not simply keep moving, but follow Christ into your future with our hearts filled with faith, purpose, and hope.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE John 1:43-51 Judy Smullen

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Rise and Shine: You Ain't Heard Nothin' Yet"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

*SERMON HYMN #300

We Are One in the Spirit THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

(From *Glory to God* – see insert)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [from the *Book of Order,* Presbyterian Church (USA)]

The church is called to be Christ's faithful evangelist: going into the world, making disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all he has commanded; demonstrating by the love of its members for one another and by the quality of its common life the new reality in Christ; sharing in worship, fellowship, and nurture, and practicing a deepened life of prayer and service under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is called and sent to participate in God's activity in the world through its life for others by healing and

reconciling and binding up wounds; ministering to the needs of the poor, the sick, the lonely, and the powerless; engaging in the struggle to free people from sin, fear, oppression, hunger and injustice; and giving itself and its substance to the service of those who suffer, sharing with Christ in the establishing of his just, peaceable, and loving rule in the world. The Church is called to undertake this mission even at the risk of losing its life, trusting in God alone as the author and giver of life, sharing the gospel, and doing those deeds in the world that point beyond themselves to the new reality 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 Set Me as a Seal upon Your Heart — Anna Laura Page

Chancel Choir

Set me as a seal upon Your heart O God,
for love is strong as death.
The waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
Set me as a seal upon Your heart.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a strong spirit within me.
Cast me not away, cast me not away
from Your presence.
Restore unto me the joy of salvation.
Uphold me with Your Spirit.
Then I'll teach Your ways,
and sinners will be converted to You

Set me as a seal upon Your heart, O God,
for love is strong as death, strong as death.
The waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
Set me as a seal upon your heart, Your heart.

*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 #424

O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns Be Rising O QUANTA QUALIA 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.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Allegro Maestoso" from *Sonata No. 2, Op. 65* Felix Mendelssohn

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

TEXT and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes, 1966
Text and Music © 1966 F.E.L. Publications, assigned 1991 to The Lorenz Corp.

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS
7.6.7.6.8.6 with refrain