FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
Third Sunday After Epiphany

January 21, 2024

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Elegy George Thalben-Ball

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The heavens tell of the glory of God;
People: And the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
Leader: The Lord is good, and worthy to be praised;
People: Let us praise the Lord for the beauty of God's works!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #285

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets AUSTRIAN HYMN

1 God You spin the whirling planets
Fill the seas and spread the plain
Mold the mountains fashion blossoms
Call forth sunshine wind and rain
We created in your image
Would a true reflection be
Of Your justice grace and mercy
And the truth that makes us free

2 You have called us to be faithful
In our life and ministry
We respond in grateful worship
Joined in one community
When we blur Your gracious image
Focus us and make us whole
Healed and strengthened as Your people
We move onward toward Your goal

*Please stand if you are able.

3 God Your word is still creating
Calling us to life made new
Now reveal to us fresh vistas
Where there's work to dare and do
Keep us clear of all distortion
Fashion us with loving care
Thus new creatures in Your image
We'll proclaim Christ everywhere

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you set the universe into motion and created this earth as a sign of your grace and love. You set us down in your creation, declared it good, and charged us to be stewards of it on your behalf. Yet we so often fall short of your charge. We neglect and exploit your creation; we hurt each other and ignore our neighbors' needs while focusing on our own. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to take up your charge with courage and faith, so that our lives and our ministry may reflect your goodness in this world.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Genesis 1:1-31 Cindy Simmons
Leader: The word of the Lord;
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Rise and Shine: Good to Go"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

*SERMON HYMN #469
Morning Has Broken BUNESSAN

1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!

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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory What is this lovely fragrance? Healy Willan

Chancel Choir

What is this lovely fragrance wafting
Like to the scents of flow'rs in spring?
Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty
Hear you not heav'nly caroling?
What is this lovely fragrance wafting
Like to the scents of flow'rs in spring?

What is this light so fair, so tender
Breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?
Never the Morning Star so radiant
Followed his course o'er eastern skies.
What is this light so fair, so tender
Breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?

Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps
Seek the Saviour, born today.
Low at His feet we lay our treasure,
Heart's adoration, love for aye.
Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps
Seek the Saviour, born today.

*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 #261

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us O QUANTA QUALIA

1 God of compassion, in mercy befriend us;
Giver of grace for our needs all availing,
Wisdom and strength for each day do Thou send us,
Patience untiring and courage unfailing.

2 Wandering and lost, Thou hast sought us and found us,
Stilled our rude hearts with Thy Word of consoling;
Wrap now Thy peace, like a mantle, around us,
Guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling.

3 How shall we stray, with Thy hand to direct us,
Thou who the stars in their courses art guiding?
What shall we fear, with Thy power to protect us,
We who walk forth in Thy greatness confiding?

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Fuga in D Minor Charles Zenner