FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

# Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost
# Traditional Service
# October 17, 2021

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

### *WE GATHER*

PRELUDE Prelude in F op. 101, No. 1 — C. V. Stanford

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul!
**People: God, you stretch out the heavens like a tent, and set the earth on its foundations.**
Leader: O Lord, how bountiful are your works!
**People**: **In your wisdom, you have made them all; the earth is full of your creations.**
**All: Come, let us worship God!**

OPENING HYMN — #471

O Praise the Gracious Power — CHRISTPRAISE RAY

**1** O praise the gracious power
that tumbles walls of fear
and gathers in one house of faith
all strangers far and near:

**Refrain**
We praise you, Christ!
Your cross has made us one!

**2** O praise persistent truth
that opens fisted minds,
and eases from their anxious clutch
the prejudice that blinds: (Refrain)

**3** O praise inclusive love,
encircling every race,
oblivious to gender, wealth,
to social rank or place: (Refrain)

**4** O praise the word of faith
that claims us as God's own,
a living temple built on Christ,
our rock and cornerstone:(Refrain)

## *WE CONFESS*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious and Loving God, we remember that Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," and invites us to follow him. Yet the way of Jesus is hard to follow sometimes. We long for less demanding paths; we prefer to find our own way; we fear moving on from where we are, even when where we are is not a good place to be. Forgive us, Lord, and bless us with strength, faith, and hope, that we may have more than enough for the journey, and help others along the way as well.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## *WE LISTEN*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Acts 18:24-27 Don Masters

Leader: The word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"On the Way"

## *WE RESPOND*

HYMN #359

Be Thou My Vision SLANE

**1** Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art--
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

**2** Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

**3** Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from "A Brief Statement of Faith")

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRATITUDE REFLECTIONS JoAnne Turcotte

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 River adapted by Aaron Copland

**1** Shall we gather by the river,
Where bright angel's feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?

**2** Yes, we'll gather by the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river
That flows by the throne of God.

**3** Ere we reach the shining river
Lay we every burden down,
Praise our spirits will deliver
And provide our robe and crown.

**4** Yes, we'll gather at the river.
The beautiful, the beautiful, river.
Gather with the saints at the river,
That flows by the throne of God.

**5** Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.

**6** Yes, we'll gather by the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river
That flows by the throne of God.

*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 #422

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending BEACH SPRING

**1** God, whose giving knows no ending,
From Your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
Costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by You, we turn to You,
Offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever,
Gracious donor of our days.

**2** Skills and time are ours for pressing
Toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom,
Races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
Lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants
Fit to answer at Your throne.

**3** Treasure too You have entrusted,
Gain through powers Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred,
And to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands, in sharing,
As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
Serving You by loving all.

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE Postlude March in C A. Guilmant

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