FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
Third Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE "Mode de Re", from *Eight Modal Pieces* Jean Langlais

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord!
People: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Leader: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving!
People: Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #446
Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken AUSTRIAN HYMN

1 Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken,
Formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

2 See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the Giver,
Never fails from age to age.

*Please stand if you are able.

3 Round each habitation hovering,
See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering,
Showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner
Light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna
Which God gives them when they pray.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, in Christ you offer us the water of life, sustaining us in body and spirit through the power of your love. Yet we still wander off into the deserts of fear, of despair, of busyness. Forgive us, Lord, and fill us with your living water, so that we may not thirst for anything else, and we may learn how to share it with others through our lives and faith.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE John 4:5-42 Bob Hunsicker
Leader: The word of the Lord;
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"The Unusual Suspects"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN #313
Come Down, O Love Divine DOWN AMPNEY

1 Come down, O Love divine,
Seek out this soul of mine
And visit it with Your own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, Your holy flame bestowing.

2 O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let Your glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

3 And so the yearning strong
With which the soul will long
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess God's grace,
Till Love creates a place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

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.

OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory As the Deer Longs for the Waterbrooks Peter Stearns

Chancel Choir

As the deer longs for the waterbrooks,
So longs my soul for thee.
My soul is athirst for God,
Athirst for the living God.
When shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

Put your trust in God;
For I will yet give thanks to him,
Who is the help of my countenance,
And my God.
As the deer longs for the waterbrooks, so longs my soul for thee, O God.

*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 #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.

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.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Fughetta" from *10 Pieces pour grand orgue* Theodore Dubois