First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Digital Traditional Service

March 21, 2021

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE 4. "Adagio" from Organ Symphony No. 5, Op. 42 Charles-Marie Widor

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN #401

Here in this Place, Verses 1, 2, & 4 GATHER US IN

1 Here in this place new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name

2 We are the young, our lives are a mystery
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty
Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song

3 Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the kingdom, now is the day

Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, you are Word and Flesh. We long for your Light. We long to know God-With-Us. We want to see Jesus. Yet we forget who you are, lose sight of you, and stumble around aimlessly in the world, following whatever path is easiest and most convenient. We hear Jesus say, "Whoever serves must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be." Yet we struggle to keep up, to follow you into and through our own discomfort, to go to all the places and people to whom you go so readily. Forgive us, O God. Forgive us and renew your Spirit within us so that we might delight in your will and walk in your way. Lead us again down the path of our brother, Jesus, so that we, too, might be a light in the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

SPECIAL MUSIC On Eagles Wings — Michael Joncas
Rebecca Erhardt, soprano

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE John 12:20-33 — Judy Smullen
Leader: The word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

SERMON — The Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

"Longing for Light"

WE RESPOND

HYMN #467
Give Us Light — JYOTHI DHO

1 Give us light, give us light, give us light, O Lord.

2 Give us life, give us life, give us life, O Lord.

3 Grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace, O Lord.

4 Save us now, save us now, save us now, O Lord.

5 Give us grace, give us grace, give us grace, O Lord.

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 I. "Prelude", from Prelude, Fugue, and Variation, Op. 18 Cesar Franck

*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 #377

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light HOUSTON

1 I want to walk as a child of the light
I want to follow Jesus
God sent the stars to give light to the world
The star of my life is Jesus

In Him, there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike
The Lamb is the light of the city of God
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

2 I want to see the brightness of God
I want to look at Jesus
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path
And show me the way to the Father

In Him, there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike
The Lamb is the light of the city of God
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ
I want to be with Jesus
When we have run with patience the race
We shall know the joy of Jesus

In Him, there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike
The Lamb is the light of the city of God
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE 5. "Finale", from Organ Symphony No. 3, Op. 28 Louis Vierne

Guest Organist: Dr. Bryan Holten