FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost
October 30, 2022

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Prelude in D — Erik Routley

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us sing to the Lord

People: Let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

Leader: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

People: Let us come singing joyful songs of praise.

All: Come, let us worship God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #243

We Thank You, Lord, for You Are Good — WAS GOTT TUT

1 We thank you, Lord, for you are
good; your mercy lives forever.
Your kindness from of old has stood;
your love will keep us ever.
O God of gods, O sovereign Lord,
we bless you now with one accord:
your love is everlasting.

2 You, Lord, alone did wondrous deeds;
your mercy lives forever.
From you alone all good proceeds;
your love will keep us ever.
Your wisdom made the heavens to be;
you formed the earth above the sea:
your love is everlasting.

*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE.

3 You made the starry lights to rise;
your mercy lives forever.
Your glories shine in radiant skies;
your love will keep us ever.
Your glowing moon enhances night.
Your sun brings forth each morning's light:
your love is everlasting.

4 You rescue us from every foe;
your mercy lives forever.
You feed your creatures here below;
your love will keep us ever.
We give you thanks, Creator, Lord;
we sing the glories of your word:
your love is everlasting.

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, Christ taught that he came so that we might have life, and have it abundantly. But so much of our thoughts and actions are focused on managing scarcity: scarcity of resources, of time, of opportunity, of hope. Forgive us, Lord, and teach us to trust in the abundance of your grace, so that we may imitate you in acts of generosity and compassion as we seek to love our neighbors as ourselves.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Luke 8:4-8, 11-15 Linda Filipovits

Leader: The word of the Lord;
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Fruit that Will Last: Just Throwing it Out There"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN #553

For the Fruit of All Creation EAST ACKLAM

1 For the fruit of all creation,
Thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation,
Thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping,
Thanks be to God.

2 In the just reward of labor,
God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will be done.
In our worldwide task of caring
For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing,
God's will be done.

3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
Thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
Thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us,

*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

THE 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

The Lord is My Shepherd — Howard Goodall

Chancel Choir

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters, His
goodness restores my soul.

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy, I
feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are comfort I need to know

And I will trust in You alone,
Yes I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.

*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 — #538

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing — SICILIAN MARINERS

1 Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing;
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Thy love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
Traveling through this wilderness.

2 Thanks we give and adoration
For Thy gospel's joyful sound;
May the fruits of Thy salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, Ever faithful
To the truth may we be found.

3 So that when Thy love shall call us,
Savior, from the world away,
Let no fear of death appall us,
Glad Thy summons to obey.
May we ever, May we ever
Reign with Thee in endless day.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Postlude on "Dominus Regit Me" — Gordon Young