FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
Third Sunday after Easter

April 30, 2023

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Prelude on "Land of Rest" Leo Sowerby

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: From all nations, tribes, and peoples, the church gathers before Jesus, the Lamb of God.
People: Together we cry out, "Salvation belongs to our God and to the Lamb!
Leader: Blessing and glory and wisdom be to our God!
People: Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, forever and ever!"

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #466
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing AZMON

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!

2 Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

*Please stand if you are able.

3 Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,
And sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,
Christ's blood availed for me.

4 My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, you invite us to clothe ourselves in Christ, putting on his love and justice, faithfulness and forgiveness, mercy and peace. But we often struggle with how the clothes of Christ fit. Sometimes we feel unworthy to wear them; sometimes we forget that they do not belong to us; sometimes we grumble about how others look in them. Forgive us, Lord; help us to receive your gifts with gratitude, and to wear them with joy along with others, so that together we may demonstrate the breadth and the beauty of your grace. Through Christ we pray.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Mark 7:1-23 Linda Filipovits

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

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Mirror, Mirror"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN #233
Blest Are the Uncorrupt RICHMOND

1 Blest are the uncorrupt in heart,
Whose ways are right and true,
Who never from Your law depart
But ever fly to You.

2 Blest are all those who keep Your word
And practice Your commands,
Who with their hearts still seek You,
And serve You with their hands.

3 Great hope we find within Your law;
Thus firm our lives are bound.
When trials, trouble, hurts arise,
In You true life is found.

4 Then do we sing with deepest joy
The honor of Your name,
For when Your statutes we obey,
Our lives are kept from shame.

5 To You, O God of truth and law,
To You, O living Word,
To You, O comforter of life,
May now our praise be heard.

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 Crown Him with Many Crowns arr. Walter Pelz

The Chancel Choir

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Virgin's Son,
The God Incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic Tree,
As of that Tree the Stem;
The Root whence flows Thy mercy free,
The Babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of Love:
Behold His hands and side;
Rich wounds yet visible above
In beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye
At mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of Heaven,
enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the King to Whom
is given the wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns,
as thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
for He is King of all.

*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 #145

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! MARION

1 Rejoice ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King.

Refrain:
Rejoice! rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

2 Yes, on through life's long path,
Still chanting as ye go;
From youth to age, by night and day,
In gladness and in woe. **(Refrain)**

3 At last the march shall end;
The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. **(Refrain)**

4 Then on, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King. **(Refrain)**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Festival Voluntary, Op. 87 Flor Peeters