FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Worship Service
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE "Prière à Notre-Dame", from *Suite Gothique* op. 25 — Leon Boellmann

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come together to worship.
In a spirit of love, and with the hope of transformation.
God, you loved us first,
so that we could be your hands and feet.
Transform our hearts
so that we may have the strength and grace to love all.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #487
When Morning Gilds the Skies — LAUDES DOMINIA

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, We confess that for many of us the history of how we came to be here is more complex than we understand. We confess that we have lost our connection to our local habitat—to the names of the birds of the air, and the fish of the waters, and every crawling thing that you have created. We confess that we are a people who have lost our connection to the dirt under our feet. The very substance into which you breathed life. Transform us, O God, and give us roots. Empower us to discover the history of this sacred place where you have called us. Embolden us to reconcile with all children of God who called this place home, and to honor their care for the land. Help us to learn the seasons of this sacred place—to learn the native flowers and trees, native birds and wildlife. ***(continued on the next page…)***

*Please stand as you are able

PRAYER OF CONFESSION, *continued*

Open our eyes to the seeds that have been sown here for millennia and the intentional care you have taken in crafting our habitat. May we be rooted and grounded in the family of God in our midst. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

We Are One in the Spirit (verse 1 and Chorus) — Peter Scholtes

Verse 1

We are One in The Spirit,
We are One in The Lord.
We are One in The Spirit,
We are One in The Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored

Chorus

And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
By our Love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Psalm: Psalm 19:1-4 — Barbara Hjorth

Epistles: Romans 1:20, Ephesians 3:17-18

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON — Rev. Karen Kinney

"A Deep Rooted Connection"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

A Guided Meditation led by Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

*SERMON HYMN — #271

Many and Great, O God, are Thy Things — LACQUIPARLES

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a creating God who delights in the Earth and calls it good.
We believe in the Holy Spirit who moves through creation like a mighty rushing wind.
We believe in Jesus of Nazareth who calmed the seas and told stories of
mustard seeds, birds, and valleys. We believe that humanity is undeniably intertwined with creation, and that creation is undeniably intertwined with God. Therefore, we believe our faith calls us to care for creation: to plant flowers, to speak tenderly to animals,
to thank the Earth for her bounty, to clean the streams, to protect the forests,
and to live like we are standing on holy ground, because we are.

- by Rev. Sarah Speed, from our new Earth Day/Creation Care liturgy, included in our "Special Sundays" collection: https://sanctifiedart.org/special-sundays-2024

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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION AND OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Be Thou My Vision arr. Alice Parker
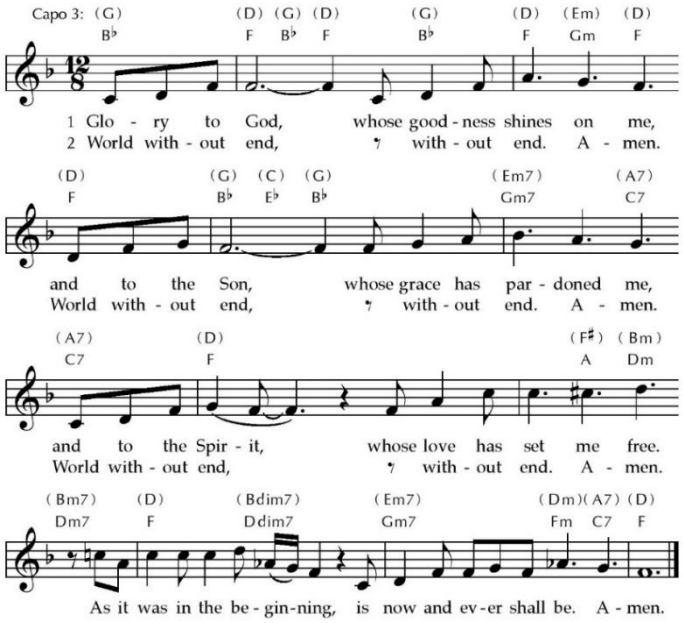
Chancel Choir

*DOXOLOGY

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (from *Glory to God)* GLORY TO GOD

SERVICE MUSIC

582 Glory to God,
Whose Goodness Shines on Me



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN #268

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens HOLY MANNA

*SUNG BENEDICTION

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.
May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.
May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.
May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

POSTLUDE Rondo-Fanfare Jean-Joseph Mouret/ arr. Thomas Murray

You're welcome to stay and enjoy the Postlude or to depart while the music is played.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!