FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Summer Worship
The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

July 23, 2023

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Oceans (Where Feet May Fail) arr. Dan Galbraith

WELCOME

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #469

Morning Has Broken BUNESSAN

Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlight from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

EMBODIED CONFESSON

WE LISTEN

SCRIPTURE Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24 Bob Hunsicker

*Please stand if you are able.

Leader: Lord, you have examined me. You know me. You know when I sit down and when I stand up. Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.

People: You study my traveling and resting. You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.

Leader: There isn't a word on my tongue, Lord, that you don't already know completely.

People: You surround me – front and back. You put your hand on me.

Leader: That kind of knowledge is too much for me; it is so high above me that I can't fathom it.

People: Where could I go to get away from your spirit? Where could I go to escape your presence? If I went up to heaven, you would be there. If I went down to the grave, you would be there, too!

Leader: If I could fly on the wings of the dawn, stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean – even there your hand would guide me, even there your strong hand would hold me tight!

People: If I said, "The darkness will definitely hide me; the light will become night around me," even then the darkness isn't too dark for you! Nighttime would shine bright as day because darkness is the same as light to you!

Leader: Examine me, God! Look at my heart! Put me to the test! Know my anxious thoughts!

People: Look to see if there is any hurtful way in me, then lead me on the eternal path!

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON — The Rev. Cynthia Leslie Simmons

"Doberman or St. Bernard?"

WE RESPOND

REFLECTIVE TIME

*SERMON HYMN — #276

Great Is Thy Faithfulness — FAITHFULNESS

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with then thousand beside!
Refrain

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 Day by Day — Martin How

Summer Choir

Day by day, dear Lord,
of thee three things I pray;
to see thee more clearly,
to love thee more dearly,
to follow thee more nearly,
day by day.

*Doxology

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me — GLORY TO GOD

Verse 1 (from *Glory to God* – see insert)

*Prayer of Dedication

*SENDING HYMN — #339

Be Thou My Vision — SLANE

1 Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art –
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

2 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

3 Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee, and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE A----men, a-----men, a---men, amen, amen. *(Sing three times.)*

POSTLUDE "Sortie" from *L'Organiste*, Volume 1 Cesar Franck
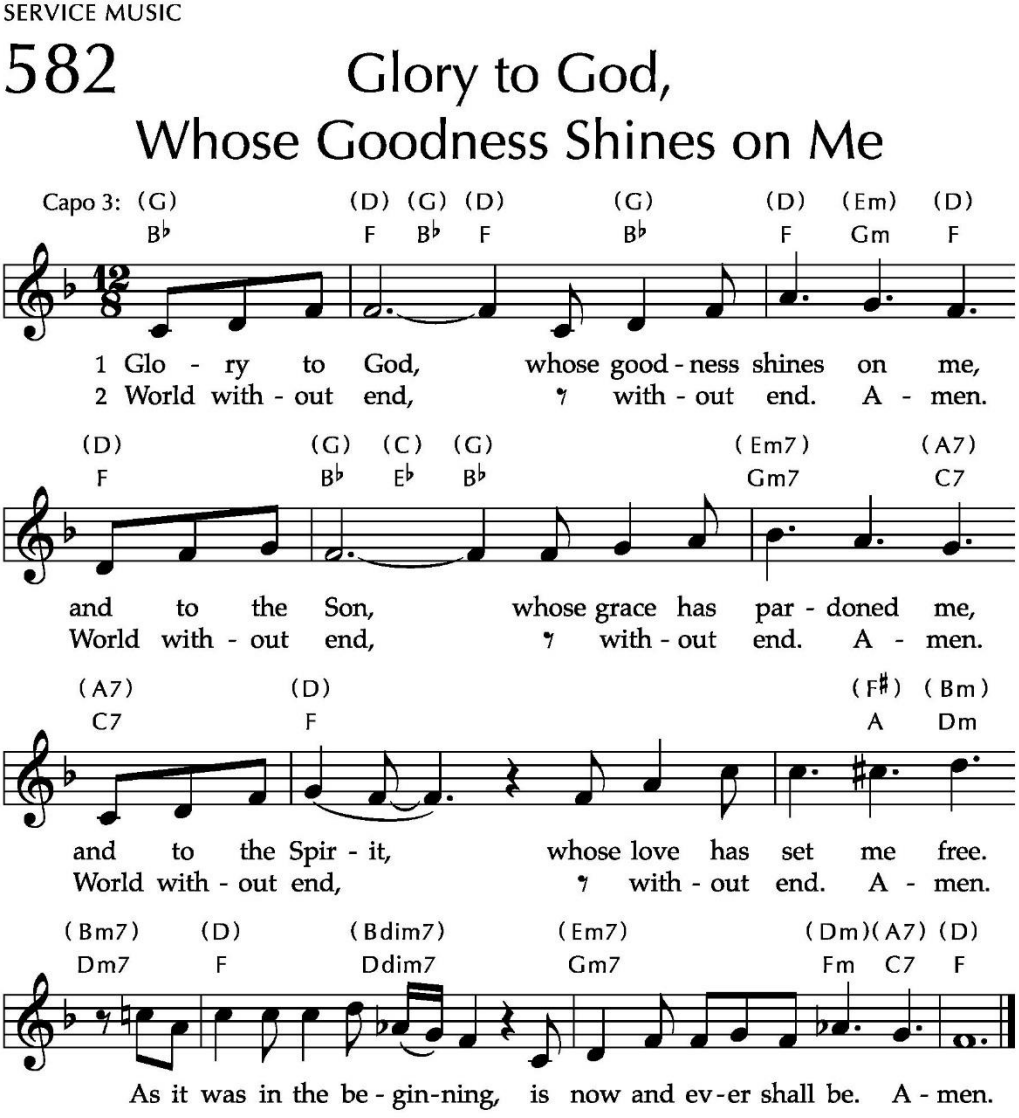
SERVICE MUSIC

