FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday Worship

October 9, 2022

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Bless the Lord — Jared Anderson

Contemporary Ensemble

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather in the name of the God of Peace.

All: To love God with all our heart, soul, and mind.

One: We gather in the name of the Prince of Peace.

All: To love our neighbor as ourselves.

One: We gather in the name of the Spirit of Peace.

All: To embody our faith and to build God's kin-dom here and now.

*GATHERING HYMN — #430

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy! — DARWALL'S 148TH

1 Come sing O church in joy
Come join O church in song
For Christ the Lord has led us
Through the ages long
Refrain
In bold accord
Come celebrate the journey now
And praise the Lord

2 Long years have come and gone
And still God reigns supreme
Empowering us to catch the vision
Dream the dream
(Refrain)

Please stand if you are able.

3 Let courage be our friend
Let wisdom be our guide
As we in mission
Magnify the Crucified
(Refrain)

4 Come sing O church in joy
Come join O church in song
For Christ the Lord has triumphed
Over the ages long
(Refrain)

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess that we have not been peacemakers, but have sought our own good rather than the good of our neighbor. We confess that we have not been agents of your goodness and grace, but have looked out for our own interests rather than the interests of others. We confess that in our desire for peace, we often assume the postures of conflict. We have taken sides and set up ourselves as judges. We have listened to one side of the story, and decided in its favor without waiting for the voice we have not heard. We have yearned for victory and have believed that one side must lose for the other to win. Gracious God, forgive us, your beloved children. In the name of Jesus, extend to us your reconciling peace.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Exodus 20:1-4; 7-9; 12-20 Marie Rosenthal

SCRIPTURE Matthew 22:36-40
Leader: The word of the Lord;
People: Thanks be to God

SERMON The Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

"Embodied Faith; Building Peace"

WE RESPOND

*SERMON HYMN *Glory to God* #753 (See Insert)
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from Five Peacemaking Affirmations of the PC(USA)

We affirm that peacemaking is essential to our faith in God's reconciling work in Jesus Christ, whose love and justice challenge evil and hatred, and whose call gives our church a mission to present alternatives to violence. We follow Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace and Reconciler, and reclaim the power of nonviolent love evident in his life and teaching, his healings and reversals of evil, his cross and resurrection. We place our faith, hope, and trust in God alone. We renounce violence as a means to further selfish national interests, to procure wealth, or to dominate others. We will practice boldly the things that make for peace and look for the day when 'they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.'

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 Amazing Grace arr. Anthony Furnivall

Chancel Choir

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I am found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come
'Twas grace has brought us safe thus far
And grace will lead us home

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright, shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I am found Was blind, but now I see

*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.

*SENDING HYMN See Insert

Go in Peace, Go in Love GIPGIL

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE 6. "Alla Marcia" from *Preludes and Voluntaries* Set 2 Eric H. Thiman

Worship Note: The confession liturgy is adapted from J. R. Daniel Kirk's "Liturgy for Peace" and the 2017 PC(USA) Peace & Global Witness Worship Resource.

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