



Vital Church: Practices for a Thriving Faith

Week 4: Spirit-Inspired Worship



GATHERING

Prelude

Romance in F-sharp major, op 28, no. 2

Robert Schumann

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

Gathering Song

“Be Still, for the Presence”

Call to Worship

Brian Tielking

We gather to worship the One who calls us to do justice.

Holy God, all glory belongs to you!

We gather to worship the One who calls us to cherish kindness.

Holy God, from you all good things come!

We gather to worship the One who calls us to journey humbly, side-by-side with our God.

Holy God, give us all we need to follow where you guide us!

Opening Prayer

* Hymn No. 402

“How Lovely, Lord”

MERLE'S TUNE

**1 How lovely, Lord, how lovely
is your abiding place;
my soul is longing, fainting,
to feast upon your grace.
The sparrow finds a shelter,
a place to build her nest;
and so your temple calls us
within its walls to rest.**

*2 In your blest courts to worship,
O God, a single day
is better than a thousand
if I from you should stray.
I'd rather keep the entrance
and claim you as my Lord
than revel in the riches
the ways of sin afford.*

*3 A sun and shield forever
are you, O Lord Most High;
you shower us with blessings;
no good will you deny.
The saints, your grace receiving,
from strength to strength shall go,
and from their life shall rivers
of blessing overflow.*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Far too often, O God, we desire to look wise in the eyes of the world. We have not spoken truth. We have said and done hurtful things to our friends. We have forgotten our true identity, wandering into ways that are not yours. We have lost the path of true worship, focusing on form and words rather than deeds. We have forgotten what true discipleship is. Forgive us and help us become the people you have created and called us to be: people of justice and love, truth and humility.

Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Grace

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Sung Response

arr. Hal Hopson

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Psalm 84

¹How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! ²My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. ³Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. ⁴Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. ⁵Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. ⁶As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. ⁷They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. ⁸O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! ⁹Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed. ¹⁰For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. ¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly. ¹²O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

“What A Friend We Have in Jesus”

Piano Solo

1 What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer! Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!

3 Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge-- take it to the Lord in prayer! Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

Second Reading

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.” ⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin

of my soul?" ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Leanne Pearce Reed

* Hymn No. 410

"God Is Calling through the Whisper"

W. ZLOBIE LEZY

*1 God is calling through the whisper
of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties
that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;
hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling—can you hear?*

*2 God is calling through the voices
of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption
and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing;
strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling—can you hear?*

*3 God is calling through the music
of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels,
and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing;
days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling—and we hear!
God is calling—and we hear!*

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

Offering

EUCHARIST

Communion Song

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

SENDING

* Hymn No. 749

“Come! Live in the Light!”

WE ARE CALLED

*1 Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called
to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom
of the city of God.*

*Refrain:
We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.*

*2 Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called
to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and violence
will be no more. (Refrain)*

*3 Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign,
and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers
united in love. (Refrain)*

*** Benediction**

*** Postlude**

* Those who are able are invited to stand.