

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

August 11, 2019

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Now, God be praised, that to believing souls gives light in darkness, comfort in despair.
~William Shakespeare (*Henry VI, pt II*)

PRELUDE

Faith

Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: "O Lord, who lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness." (*Henry VI, Part II, I, 1*)

People: We soak in the peace of these days and nights like a midsummer night's dream.

Leader: You call us from all corners of the earth, from the canals of Venice to the halls of Denmark.

**People: You unite our prayers that seek your face,
you bind our divided houses as one.**

Leader: We worship you this morning, Lord of Lords, O King of Kings,

**People: Lighten up our broken hearts,
and share your peace with all who gather here.**

All: Amen, amen (*Coriolanus, III, 3*)

*HYMN

Thy Mercy and Thy Truth, O Lord

GG: 477

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Lord, we come to you to confess the ways in which we have turned away from your ways. We speak truthfully about the times that, like Othello, we have let someone's malicious words sway our opinion of another. We speak of Lady Macbeth-like ambition within our hearts, that we might become rulers of our own lives with power and wealth, even as it harms others in the seeking. We own that sometimes we feed feuds that keep houses divided, refusing to reconcile or forget.

We have sought our pound of flesh from those who have wronged us. As human beings, we have felt the despair of Ophelia, we have experienced the nihilism of Hamlet. Together Lord, we turn to you to heal our hearts. We lay these truths before you that you might know we seek a different way.

(A moment for silent examination and confession.)

Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Our God's light casts out the darkness.

Our God's love transforms our hearts.

People: We are claimed by God and pulled into God's wholehearted embrace. Let us live as resurrected people, let us live towards the light!

*RESPONSE

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

GG: 750

**All: Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us.
Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Hear the teaching of Christ: A new command I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

HEARING THE WORD

ANTHEM

The Impossible Dream

Mitch Leigh
Dan Ansaldo

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*HYMN

When We Must Bear Persistent Pain

GG: 807

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: I Corinthians 2:9-13, pg. 167

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 4:1-16, pg. 3

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *The Gospel According to Shakespeare* Rev. Abbie Huff

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *To a Wild Rose* Edward MacDowell

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* tune GG: 606

All: **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: **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**

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN *Be Thou My Vision* GG: 450

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Mouvement Perpetuels* Francis Poulenc

*All who are able please stand. ***Latecomers seated.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Many thanks to Dan Ansaldo and Fiona Grant for the special music today.