

**Sunday January 29, 2023**

**Prelude** “Prelude in Classic Style” by Gordon Young

Chris Westfall

*The prelude is offered as an invitation to prepare for worship.*

Welcome and Announcements

Introit Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.  
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.  
I can hear the brush of angel's wings,  
I see glory on each face.  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Call to Worship

Pastor: Give praise to the Lord, you servants of God

**People: May the name of our God be forever blessed.**

Leader: From the rising of the sun, may God's praise be heard,

**People: To the setting of the sun, may God's name be praised.**

\*Hymn 353. Great God your Love Has Called Us Here

Tune Melita 562

Great God, your love has called us here  
as we, by love, for love were made.  
Your living likeness still we bear,  
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.  
We come, with all our heart and mind  
your call to hear, your love to find.

We come with self-inflicted pains  
of broken trust and chosen wrong,  
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,  
by social forces swept along,  
by powers and systems close confined,  
yet seeking hope for humankind.

Great God, in Christ you call our name  
and then receive us as your own,  
not through some merit, right or claim,  
but by your gracious love alone.  
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat  
and find you kneeling at our feet.

Then take the towel, and break the bread,  
and humble us, and call us friends.  
Suffer and serve till all are fed,  
and show how grandly love intends  
to work till all creation sings,  
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

Great God, in Christ you set us free  
your life to live, your joy to share.  
Give us your Spirit's liberty  
to turn from guilt and dull despair  
and offer all that faith can do  
while love is making all things new.

Prayer of Confession (*in unison, the congregation seated*)

**Living God, you call your church to be light to the world  
and salt of the earth forgive us that we are often dim and bland.**

**Forgive us**

**for our comfort in a world of need,  
our complacency in a world of challenge  
and our confusion in a world of change.**

**Teach us from your word and give us, please,  
conviction to know your truth  
and courage to live your truth.**

**Lord, make us, by your Spirit,  
attractive, vibrant witnesses to our Master;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Assurance of Pardon:

Pastor:           God's word teaches us to trust God's grace.  
                  God's love assures of his mercy.

People:           **God's peace enfolds our troubled hearts.  
                  God forgives us all, for Jesus' sake.**

Congregational Response           Bunessan

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;  
Heirs of salvation, trusting God's promise  
Faithfully now God's praises we sing.**

*Continuing the thrust of last week's reading, with a selection of verses from Deuteronomy 26*

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground ... and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

You shall ... make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous...."

The Lord brought us out of Egypt ... and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me."

You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

When you have finished paying all the tithe of your produce in the third year (which is the year of the tithe), giving it to the Levites, the aliens, the orphans, and the widows, so that they may eat their fill within your towns, then you shall say before the Lord your God: "I have removed the sacred portion from the house, and I have given it to the Levites, the resident aliens, the orphans, and the widows, in accordance with your entire commandment that you commanded me;

Scripture: Matthew 25: 31-46 Pastor

*The final lesson in Jesus' teaching ministry*

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king

will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

*The Word of the Lord; thanks be to God.*

Anthem "Ancient Words" by Lynn Deshazo arr. by Mark Hayes

Sermon: From The Dwelling for His Name

Dr Pritchard

\*Hymn. 421. The Church of Christ in Every Age

The Church of Christ in every age  
Beset by change but Spirit led,  
Must claim and test its heritage  
And keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street,  
The victims of injustice cry  
For shelter and for bread to eat,  
And never live until they die.

Then let the servant Church arise,  
A caring Church that longs to be  
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
And clothed in Christ's humanity.

For he alone, whose blood was shed,  
Can cure the fever in our blood,  
And teach us how to share our bread  
And feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve  
In full obedience to our Lord:  
To care for all, without reserve,  
And to spread his liberating Word.

Minute for Stewardship

Jerry Fox, Mission Committee

Prayer of Dedication

Offering: "Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring" by J.S. Bach

Chris Westfall

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you saints at rest,  
Praise Father, Son and Spirit blessed.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

\*Hymn 434. Today We All are Called to Be

Today we are all called to be  
Disciples of the Lord,  
To help to set the captives free,  
Make plow-share out of sword,  
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst,  
Make love and peace our fast,  
To serve the poor and homeless first,  
Our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth  
Ordained our human race  
To live as stewards of the earth,  
Responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud,  
We sow not peace but strife,  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud  
That threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down  
As in a mighty stream,  
With righteousness in field and town  
To cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore  
An earth where conflicts cease,  
A world that was created for  
A harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God

Act out the living word,  
And walk the road the saints have trod  
Till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we  
Give thanks in one accord  
To God who calls us all to be  
Disciples of the Lord.

Benediction

Go now in peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true  
Know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there, watching from above  
Go now in peace in faith and in love.

Postlude: “Allegro (from Suite in D)” by John Stanley

*Please be respectful of those who remain seated until the Postlude concludes the worship service.*