

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Petite Prelude and Fughetta

Eugene Butler

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and worship, proclaim God's ways of faithfulness and steadfast love.

We will tell of God's love, which unfolds in our lives.

Come and worship, for we are God's people, rejoicing in God's graciousness.

God is always with us, there is nothing which can keep us apart.

Come to the One who tells stories; worship our God who keeps promises.

We rejoice with God who is with us always.

HYMN

Come Sing O Church, in Joy!

DARWALL'S 148TH

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!

Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,
Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream! (*Refrain*)

Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,
As we in mission magnify the Crucified! (*Refrain*)

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long! (*Refrain*)

CONFESSING OUR SIN

What can we say about our foolish lives, God of Love? Too often, we choose to worship power when we could serve others in humility. We toss and turn at night, all those things over which we have no control keeping us wide awake, when we could turn them over to you. No matter how many times we hear the news that death has lost its power over us, we dread that day and try everything we can to postpone it.

For believing that our sins are more powerful than your mercy, forgive us, Grace of the world. You cast out your net of grace so that all might be gathered into your kingdom. Your Spirit carries the whispers of our hearts to you, and we are embraced with your hope, blessed with your love through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

JOYFUL RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON *I am Persuaded*

Joan H. Tinsley

For I am persuaded that neither death – nor life,
Nor angels, nor principalities,
Nor powers, nor things present,
Nor anything to come...

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature
Shall be able to separate us from the Love of God,
Which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Nancy Berlin

EPISTLE READING

Romans 8:31-39

MUSICAL OFFERING

GOSPEL READING

John 17:20-23

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SERMON

*God's Story. Our Story. One Story -
Brief Statement of Faith*

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*, 1991

In life and death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good, acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation, and makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God, was crucified, and raised from the dead, delivering us from death to life eternal.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF GOD'S CHURCH, COMMUNITY AND WORLD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Offertory Response

Praise, God From Whom all Blessings Flow
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

PRAISE GOD

Prayer of Dedication

HYMN

For the Healing of the Nations

ST. THOMAS

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
For a just and equal sharing
Of the things that earth affords;

To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom;
From despair your world release,
That, redeemed from war and hatred,
All may come and go in peace.

Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
Let it from the earth be banned:
Pride of status, race, or schooling,
Dogmas that obscure your plan.

In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written
Your great name on humankind;
For our growing in your likeness,
Bring the life of Christ to mind,

That by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC

We Are One In the Spirit

ST. BRENDANS

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians
By our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: (*Refrain*)

We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
We will work with each other; we will work side by side,
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: (*Refrain*)

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (*Refrain*)



Notes on today's music:

Opening Voluntary Dr. Eugene Butler (born 1935), an American a composer, conductor, educator and church musician, has established a solid and respected position in the music world. This piece was composed in 2016.

First Hymn: The text was written by Brian Dill (b. 1949) in 1988 as an entry in a competition by the PCUSA Bicentennial Committee with the theme of "Celebrate the Journey". Designated as "The Bicentennial Hymn" it was first published in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, 1990.

Joyful Response This setting of Romans 8:38-39 was written in 1968 by Joan (Hettenhouser) Tinsley, one of the original members of the Sons of Thunder, the first active Christian rock band in the eastern United States, and the first to record a nationally-distributed album in America. Active from June 1967 to December 1974, Sons of Thunder gave over 500 performances, produced four albums plus a TV documentary.

Offertory Response Text: The nongendered adaptation of the familiar text was penned by Neil Weatherhogg (b. 1939) in 1988 for use at Harvey Browne Memorial Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky where he was pastor and head of staff. Music: Composed by Hal Hopson (b. 1933), is a full-time composer, church musician, conductor, and clinician. He has over 3000 published works, which comprise almost every musical form in church music. With a special interest in congregational song, he continues to make a significant contribution to the new repertoire of hymn tunes and responsorial psalm settings.

Second Hymn The text was written by Fred Kaan (1929-2009) in 1967 for use on Human Rights Day (December 10) at the Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, United Kingdom, where the author was then minister. The hymn calls to mind some of the many ways we are called to share with God in God's healing work.

Benediction in Music Text and music by Peter Scholtes (1938 - 2009), a parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago during the Civil Right movement in the 1960s. Needing a song for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events and finding none, he composed this song in a single day. The tune is usually known as ST. BRENDANS.