

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
NOVEMBER 8, 2020
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

“Sleepers wake!” the Voice is Calling

Johann Sebastian Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, however you are, and lay your burdens on the Lord

burdens of fear and anger, of anxiety and uncertainty.

Come, however you are, and turn your heart to scripture’s mandate:

to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.

Come, however you are, and remember the promises of God’s word:

that we shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Come, however you are, no matter who you are, and no matter where you are,

and let us gather to lean on the everlasting arms of Christ Jesus.

HYMN

“Sleepers Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

WACHET AUF

“Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us; the shout of rampart guards surrounds us:

“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”

Midnight’s peace their cry has broken, their urgent summons clearly spoken:

“The time has come, O maidens wise!

Rise up, and give us light; the Bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!

Your lamps prepare and hasten there, that you the wedding feast may share.”

Zion hears the watchmen singing; her heart with joyful hope is springing;

She wakes and hurries through the night.

Forth he comes, her Bridegroom glorious in strength of grace, in truth victorious:

Her star is risen, her light grows bright.

Now come, most worthy Lord, God’s Son, incarnate Word, Alleluia!

We follow all and heed your call to come into the banquet hall.

Lamb of God, the heavens adore you; let saints and angels sing before you,

As harps and cymbals swell the sound.

Twelve great pearls, the city’s portals: through them we stream to join the immortals

As we with joy your throne surround.

No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such delight: Alleluia!

Therefore we sing to greet our King; for ever let our praises ring.

CONFESSING OUR SIN

O God our light and salvation, our strong fortress and hiding place, we confess our lack of hope and trust in you. We can feel so small in the midst of our struggles, that our work is insignificant when the problems we face loom so large over us. As a result, we can become complacent and slow to act for the benefit of those on the margins. Help us to look to you as our source of hope. Help us to act out our faith and represent your hope and truth in our communities and throughout your world. Help us to be active participants and partners with you in bringing your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who shows us the way...

Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession

CHORAL PETITION

Take, O Take Me as I Am

TAKE ME AS I AM

Take, O take me as I am;

Summon out what I shall be;

Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

JOYFUL RESPONSE TO THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

NETTLETON

Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God’s love.

Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.

Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!

How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

All the sins I have committed, to my Savior now I bring.
I bow down with tears of anguish; Christ forgives and so I sing:
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Phyllis Bearden

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

MUSICAL OFFERING

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:1-13

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SERMON

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Written by a St. Andrews Sunday School class, May 2018

At St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, we believe in
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;
Being Christ-centered;
The Bible as the core of our belief;
Doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God;
Being an open and safe place for confession and forgiveness;
Being involved in the community, locally and beyond;
Being welcoming and inclusive;
Caring for creation.
We believe that the church is the people.

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

We Praise You, O God

KREMSER

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

Prayer of Dedication

HYMN

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising and soon he will draw nigh.
Up, watch with expectation; at midnight comes the cry.
See that your lamps are burning; replenish them with oil;
Look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand;
Arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand!
Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC

Voluntary

Samuel Wesley



Information about today's Music:

Opening Voluntary and First Hymn Both the text and the music are by Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608), a Lutheran pastor who served in Unna, Westphalia, Germany during a terrible epidemic that claimed thirteen hundred lives in that village alone between July, 1597 and January, 1598. It was a grim reality he could not escape: his parsonage overlooked the churchyard where as many as thirty people might be buried each day. So it is no surprise that his thoughts often turned to the life to come, even in the midst of giving thanks for his own preservation, as revealed in a book of his meditations. Nicolai was the author of two famous hymns (*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* and *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*), sometimes referred to as the King and Queen of Chorales, respectively. This setting by J. S. Bach (1685-1750) is a movement for chorus and chamber orchestra from his cantata by the same name. Bach transcribed the movement as part of a collection of six chorales for organ (*Schübler Chorales*) from movements of various cantatas. Published in 1747, the collection was named by Bach for the engraver and printer. The harmonization that we will sing is also by Bach.

Second Hymn The text was authored by Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722) and first published in 1700 in Bremen, Germany as part of a collection of hymns for the entire church year. This hymn was assigned to the 27th Sunday after Trinity, when Matthew 25:1-13 is the appointed Gospel. The composer of the tune *LLANGLOFFAN* is unknown. It was first published in a collection of Welsh airs in London in 1848 first appeared with this text in *The English Hymnal* in 1906 with the harmonization by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) *Llangloffan* is the name of a village in Pembrokeshire, Wales. Both of our hymns this morning have traditionally been considered Advent hymns but are actually more appropriate for this Sunday's Gospel in the common lectionary for year A. However, the general anticipatory tone is not inappropriate for Advent 1 in any year.