

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

JANUARY 31, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Trumpet Tune in D Major

David N. Johnson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Thinking we know all the answers, yet wondering if we haven't missed something:

we enter this time to worship the One who is Truth.

In the company of sinners, in cahoots with saints:

we gather as God's people.

Gathering with folks of deep, abiding faith; seated with those who stumble through the Kingdom:

we lift our praise to God.

HYMN

Immortal, Invisible

ST. DENIO

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

CONFESSING OUR SIN

Almighty One, we confess that we have placed limits on you. We have tried to fit you into a box of theology, a box of rules, a box of limited human understanding. You've broken the world, even the universe, open to us again and again, but still we try to be gatekeepers. O forgive us, our human, faulty selves, for not listening to you, for not comprehending, for not simply sitting in Wisdom's understanding and contemplating your teaching. Forgive our selfish impulses to try to reign you in and put harmful limitations on others. For give us when we puff out our chests over what good people we are, yet do not notice how our pride trips those who seek to follow Jesus. Call us into your deeper ways of understanding, and may we truly love one another and love you, for this is what you have commanded. In the name of Wisdom, in the name of Jesus, in the name of the Spirit among us we pray all things.

Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

JOYFUL RESPONSE TO THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise.
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!

To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
By saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Marsha Ashby

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:21-28

MUSICAL OFFERING

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

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

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

LAST UNS ERFREUEN

Prayer of Dedication

HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.
Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;
Be thou still my strength and shield.
When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC

Postlude on AZMON

Anna Laura Page

Notes on Today's Music

The **Opening Voluntary** was composed by David N. Johnson (1922 - 1987), an American organist, composer, educator, choral clinician, and lecturer. Johnson published well over 300 compositions, most of them for church use, and was author of an *Instruction Book for Beginning Organists* (1964) and an *Organ Teacher's Guide* (1971). This piece was published in 1962.

First Hymn The text for "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" was written by William Chalmers Smith (1824-1908) and published in his book *Hymns of Christ and the Christian Life* (London, 1867). He was a hymnist, author, poet, and minister of the Free Church of Scotland.

The Free Church of Scotland was a Scottish denomination which was formed in 1843 by a large withdrawal from the established Church of Scotland in a schism or division known as the Disruption of 1843. In 1900 the vast majority of the Free Church of Scotland joined with the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland

The music is a traditional Welsh folk melody which first appeared in *Caniadau y Cyssegr* (Songs of the Sanctuary) edited by John Roberts (Denbigh, Wales. 1839)

Attributed to William Williams (1717-1791), it would take a full page to list the publishing history and transformation of the original Welsh *Argiwydd, arwain trwy'r anialwch* into the form of the hymn we know today. The original poem began as five six-line stanzas. It was translated into English by Peter Williams (1722-1796) into three six-line stanzas. To be certain, the hymn cites new fewer than 15 Scripture references in the three verses.

The tune CWM RHONDDA was composed by John Hughes (1873-1932) and first published in *Cân a Mawl: Song and Praise* (Chicago, IL 1918). The tune derives its name from Chapel Rhondda, a Welsh Baptist chapel, and was composed for the 1907 Cymanfa Ganuan, the chapel's annual singing festival.