

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

JUNE 13, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Prelude on ST. AGNES
Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

Raymond Haan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed; it starts out as a small thing, but it grows and grows until it gives a home to the birds of the air.

Can we believe a new day is coming? As surely as the sun rises over the horizon God is creating a new world.

Jesus said the Kingdom of God is like that someone who casts seed on the ground, and then sleeps and wakes, day after day, while the earth produces the fruit from the seed that was cast.

We do not know how God works out the fullness of redemption. But we know we are partners in that work.

Praise the name of the Lord who still cares for the world!

Praise the name of the Lord who leads with power and grace.

HYMN

God the Sculptor of the Mountains

JENKINS-HOUSTON

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| 1. God the sculptor of the mountains,
God the miller of the sand,
God the jeweler of the heavens,
God the potter of the land:
You are the womb of all creation;
we are formless; shape us now. | 3. God the dresser of the vineyard,
God the planter of the wheat,
God the reaper of the harvest,
God the source of all we eat:
you are host at every table;
we are hungry; feed us now. |
| 2. God the nuisance of the Pharaoh,
God the cleaver of the sea,
God the pillar in the darkness,
God the beacon of the free:
you are fount of all deliverance;
we are aimless; lead us now. | 4. God the unexpected infant,
God the calm, determined youth,
God the table-turning prophet,
God the resurrected truth:
you are present every moment;
we are searching; meet us now. |

CONFESSING OUR SIN

Beloved God, it is often hard for us to see anything special in something so small as a seed. We look at others we encounter in our lives, and think, "How could they be worthy of love?" But you call us, again and again, to shower love upon the world – on the impressive flowers and on the tiny seeds. Help us to see each other as you see us – needing your grace poured out, and through your grace, being worthy of your love. Help us to grow into sheltering plants, able not only to rise toward your outpouring of grace and love, but to point others to your life-giving light.

Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

JOYFUL RESPONSE

God of the Fertile Fields

ITALIAN HYMN

God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
that all in every land be clothed and fed.

God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died
to make us one: we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Phyllis Bearden

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

MUSICAL OFFERING

GOSPEL READING

Mark 4:26-34

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SERMON

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Excerpts from *A Declaration of Faith* (Adopted by the PCUS in 1977)

We believe in one true and living God.
That One is the Lord, whom we worship, serve, and love.
God is greater than our understanding.
We do not fully comprehend who God is or how God works.
God's reality far exceeds all our words can say.
God comes to us on God's own terms and is able to do far more than we ask or think.
We know that God is not confined to the story we can tell.
The story itself tells us God works God's sovereign will among all peoples of the earth.
We believe God works beyond our imagining throughout the universe.

We need constantly to search out God's way in Scripture,
not expecting detailed directions for every decision,
but relying on the Word to tell us who God is,
to press God's present claim on us,
and to assure us of God's grace and comfort.

We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom.
But hope plunges us into the struggle for victories over evil that are possible now in the world, the church,
and our individual lives.
Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition, however invincible it may seem, for
the new world and the new humanity that are surely coming.
Jesus is Lord!
He has been Lord from the beginning.
He will be Lord at the end.
Even now Jesus is Lord.

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

For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYD Y NOS

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

Prayer of Dedication

HYMN

O God, Who Gives Us Life

NOEL

O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.
O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.
O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.

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

Postlude on HYFRYDOL
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Music by Richard Hugh Prichard
Setting by Anna Laura Page



Notes on today's music

The tune, ST. AGNUS, was composed specifically for the words “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee” by John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876) in 1866 in *A Hymnal for Use in the English Church, with Accompanying Tunes*. The words are a 19th century translation by Edward Caswall of a 12th century Latin poem “Jesu, dulcis memoria,” likely the work of an anonymous monk residing in England.

Dykes was a vicar of the Church of England and a noted composer of hymn tunes including for “Holy! Holy! Holy!” (NICAEA), “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” (MELITA), and “Ride On! Ride On in Majesty” (ST. DROSTANE). Raymond Haan (b. 1938) is the Director of Music for the Cutlerville East Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, and has had this position since 1960. He is the composer of hundreds of compositions for organ, voice, choir, handbells, piano, and other instruments.

The text for “God the Sculptor of the Mountains” was written by John Thornburg (b. 1954) which was commissioned in 1993 by the Alumni Council of the Perkins School of Theology in Dallas to honor James Kirby at the end of his thirteen-year tenure as dean.

The composer is Amanda Husberg (1940-2021) who served as Director of Music at St. John the Evangelist Lutheran Church, an inner-city, multi-cultural church in north Brooklyn, for over 40 years. She has over 200 hymns published in various hymnals and supplements in the U.S., Canada, and Brazil. She often named hymn tunes for people connected with the music ministry at St. John's - in this case for a married couple who were choir members.

The text of the Joyful Response was written by Georgia Harkness (1891-1974) and was first published in *Fourteen New Rural Hymns* (New York, 1955).

The text of the Offertory Response was written by the Reverend Fred Pratt Green (1903 –2000), a British Methodist minister and hymnodist. The tune is a traditional Welsh melody harmonized by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

Rowland Huw Prichard (1811-1877) was a Welch musician. In 1844, Prichard published *Cyfaill y Cantorion* (The Singer's Friend), a songbook intended for children.

This setting is by Anna Laura Page (b. 1943), active as a composer, clinician, and organist. Her publications include choral works for children, youth and adults, and compositions for handbells, organ, and piano.