

**St. Andrews Presbyterian Church**

**JULY 4, 2021**

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**WELCOME**

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**

*Overture*

Georg Frederic Handel

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us,

**God has called us to bring good news to the poor.**

God has sent us to proclaim release to the captives,

**God has called us to let the oppressed go free.**

God is telling us that now is the time,

**Even if some won't listen to us.**

Now is the time,

**Even if the words are hard to proclaim.**

Now is the time,

**Even when we tremble and are afraid.**

Now is the time,

**To do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. Amen**

**HYMN 331**

*God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*

NATIONAL HYMN

God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band of shining worlds  
in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past. In this free land by thee our lot is cast.  
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay: thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, be thy strong arm our ever sure defense.  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase, Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way. Lead us from night to never-ending day.  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

**LITANY FOR THE NATION**

Mighty God: the earth is yours and the nations are your people. Take away our pride and bring to mind your goodness, so that, living together in this land, we may enjoy your gifts and be thankful.

**Amen.**

For clouded mountains, fields and woodlands; for shoreline and running streams; for all that makes our nation good and lovely;

**We thank you, God.**

For farms and villages where food is gathered to feed our people;

**We thank you, God.**

For cities where people talk and work together in factories, shops, and schools to shape those things we need for living;

**We thank you, God.**

For explorers, planners, civic leaders, for prophets who speak out, and for silent faithful people; for all who love our land and guard our freedom;

**We thank you, God.**

For vision to see your purpose hidden in our nation's history, and courage to seek it in love given and received;

**We thank you, God.**

O God: your justice is like rock, and your mercy like pure flowing water. Judge and forgive us. If we have turned from you, return us to your way; for without you we are a lost people.

**Amen.**

From brassy patriotism and a blind trust in power;

**Deliver us, O God.**

From public deceptions that weaken trust; from self-seeking in high political places;

**Deliver us, O God.**

From divisions among us of class or race; from wealth that will not share, and poverty that feeds on the food of bitterness;

**Deliver us, O God.**

From neglecting rights; from overlooking the hurt, the imprisoned, and the needy among us;

**Deliver us, O God.**

From a lack of concern for other lands and peoples; from narrowness of national purpose; from failure to welcome the peace you promise on earth;

**Deliver us, O God.**

Eternal God: before you nations rise and fall; they grow strong or wither by your design. Help us to repent of our country's wrong, and to choose your right in reunion and renewal.

**Amen.**

Give us a glimpse of the Holy City you are bringing to earth, where death and pain and crying will be gone away, and nations will gather in the light of your presence.

**Great God, renew this nation.**

Teach us peace, so that we may plow up battlefields and pound weapons into building tools, and learn to talk across old boundaries as brothers and sisters in your love.

**Great God, renew this nation.**

Talk sense to us, so that we may wisely end all prejudice, and may put a stop to cruelty, which divides and wounds the human family.

**Great God, renew this nation.**

Draw us together as one people who do your will, so that our land may be a light to nations, leading the way to your promised kingdom which is coming among us.

**Great God, renew this nation.**

Great God, eternal Lord: long years ago you gave our ancestors this land as a home for the free. Show us there is no law or liberty apart from you; and let us serve you modestly, as devoted people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

#### **JOYFUL RESPONSE**

*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!

In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Margaret Williams

#### **HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING**

Ezekiel 2:1-5

#### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

#### **GOSPEL READING**

Mark 6:1-13

#### **CHILDREN'S LESSON**

#### **SERMON**

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

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

### OFFERING OUR GIFTS

#### Offertory Response

*We Give Thanks unto You*

WE GIVE THANKS UNTO YOU

We give thanks unto you, O God of might, for your love is never ending;

We give thanks unto you, the God of all, for your love is never ending.

#### Prayer of Dedication

### THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### Invitation

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Prayer After Communion

### HYMN 726

*Will You Come and Follow Me?*

KELVINGROVE

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

### 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

*Finale*

GEORG FREDERIC HANDEL

### *Notes on Today's Music*

It is ironic that so much music has been inspired by so many wars, but so little has been written celebrating the outbreak of peace! The Opening Voluntary and Benediction in Music, by Georg Frederic Handel (1685-1759), are two of the five movements from the Music for the Royal Fireworks, composed in celebration of the signing of the treaty, The Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, marking the end of the War of Austrian Succession (1740-1748). It was composed for military band (wind and percussion instruments only) for the outdoor public celebration in London on April 27, 1749.

The text for “God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand” was written by Daniel Crane Roberts (1841- 1907) for the 1876 centennial celebration of the writing of the Declaration of Independence. It was first sung in Brandon, Connecticut, where the author was the rector of the local Episcopal church. The music was composed by George William Warren (1828-1902) specifically for the text. They appeared together in *The Hymnal 1892* (New York, 1893)

The text for “*Will You Come and Follow Me?*” (John Bell, b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958) comes out of the life of the Iona community who had a practice of sending youth volunteers to live for a year or two in impoverished communities in Scotland to work out their discipleship in hard places. At the end of their agreed periods of ministry, there would be a farewell ceremony, always held in the house where they had been living and for which these authors would often create an appropriate song, usually intended for one time use. This was originally such a song but proved meaningful to many people after it was published in 1987.