

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

AUGUST 29, 2021

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Setting by Anna Laura Page

Based on the tune LAUDES DOMINI by Joseph Barnby

CALL TO WORSHIP

If you come into this place
with the hope of growing deeper,
with the hope of connecting,
with the hope of glimpsing God,
and if all of those things take place,
and your spirit is moved,
and you swear God is near,
and you feel more than lucky for the gift of faith,
and then the service comes to an end,
and it's time for you to leave,
and you ask yourself,

“Where do we go from here?”

Then I would say to you,
“Go out into the world
to love and to share and to learn,
but come back soon,
because this is the beginning.”

This is only the beginning.

So come on in.
Fill your cup here.
Be present here.

God is here.

Let us worship Holy God.

HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

CONFESSING OUR SIN

Holy God, we are naturals when it comes to stalling out. We reach a certain point in the relationship, in the conversation, in our faith, and then we stall. We buy property on the top of the plateau and build a house there, destined to never dig deeper or climb higher.

Forgive us for giving up on the things that matter. Forgive us for confusing the plateau with the mountain top. Forgive us for taking the easy way out instead of doing the hard work of curiosity, relationship-building, vulnerability, and connection. Inspire us to see new paths for where we can go from here. With hope and honesty we pray...

Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

God is with me on the mountain top, and God is with me on the plateau.

I am loved, claimed, and forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

JOYFUL RESPONSE*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

Carol Gordon

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Ruth 1:1-22

MUSICAL OFFERING**SCRIPTURE READING**

Acts 10:34-43

CHILDREN'S LESSON**SERMON***I've Been Meaning to Ask... Where Do We Go from Here?* Rev. Camille LeBron Powell**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe that God is a conversationalist, drawing close to us and asking,
"What do you need? Where does it hurt? Who do you long to be?"

We see this conversational God in Jesus Christ, God's own flesh,
who walked the earth speaking with the poor, the hungry, the lonely, and the outcast.

Therefore, we believe that our call as people of faith is to continue this holy conversation
with those who look and think like us, as well as with those who share little in common with us.

We believe that through these conversations,

we are able to catch a glimpse of the Kin-dom of God, so we continue the conversation in hope.
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***For the Life That You Have Given*

PLEADING SAVIOR

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

Prayer of Dedication**HYMN***Lift Every Voice and Sing*

LIFT EVERY VOICE

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on, till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died.

Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?

Continued

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

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

A Covenant of Grace
Surprised by God's unbounded love
From many walks of life we come
To build a covenant of grace
And in our differences embrace

O WALY WALY

Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Affirmation of Faith by Sarah Are
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Notes on Today's Music

The **Opening Voluntary** is based on the hymn tune LAUDES DOMINI composed by Sir Joseph Barnby (1838-1896) to set an English translation of the German poem *Beim frühen Morgenlicht* of which the author is unknown. Barnby was a highly regarded English composer and conductor, educated at the Royal Academy of Music, and in 1871 was appointed conductor of the Royal Albert Hall Choral Society, a post he held till his death. In 1892, he became principal of the Guildhall School of Music, receiving the honor of knighthood in July of that year.

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.

The text for **There's a Wideness in God's Mercy** was authored by Frederick William Faber (1814- 1863) and first published in *Hymns* (London, 1861). Faber was a noted English hymn writer and theologian, who converted from Anglicanism to Roman Catholicism in 1845.

He was ordained to the Catholic priesthood subsequently in 1847. The text is set to the tune IN BABILONE, a Dutch melody arranged by Julius Röntgen (1855-1933) for *The English Hymnal* (London, 1906).

Words and music for **Lift Every Voice and Sing** were written and composed by brothers James and Rosamon Johnson in Jacksonville, Florida in 1899 to commemorate Lincoln's birthday. Originally written for school children, it premiered on February 12, 1900 by 500 children for Booker T. Washington. By the time it was formally published two decades later as sheet music (New York, 1921), the song had already become well known via typed and printed copies pasted in the back of Bibles, hymnals, and songbooks. By 1919, it had even been adopted by the NAACP and was destined to become known as the African-American National Hymn.