

Bulletin for August 30, 2020

Please note that all prayers are to be read by the worship leader only. None of the prayers of unison. We will sing one hymn at the end of the worship service. For your protection and that of others, please wear a mask when singing the hymn.

PRELUDE Make Me A Channel of Your Peace -arr. Wagner

CALL TO WORSHIP

If it had not been God who was on our side, the troubles of our world would have swallowed us whole.

If it had not been God who was on our side, the sorrows of our times would have swept us away. So if any are suffering, come and pray.

If any are cheerful, come sing songs of praise.

If any are sick, come and ask for healing.

Our help is in the Lord our God, the One who made heaven and earth.

We can call upon God, creator and rescuer, because God is on our side.

Solo “Shelter Me” by Joncas -Maria Goodrich

CALL TO CONFESSION

God has offered us salvation despite our being unworthy. Although we continue to make mistakes and fall short, God continues to reach out to us with love and grace. Let us, therefore, unite our voices and confess our sins, that we might be reminded of God’s love and forgiveness

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we confess that while you love us, we have not loved you; you call, but we have not listened. We have walked away from

neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. We have gone along with evil, with pride, quarrelling, and divisiveness, and refused to participate in acts of love, grace, and mercy. Holy God, help us to face up to ourselves, so that, as you move toward us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive your mercy. Almighty God, we confess that while you love us, we have not loved you; you call, but we have not listened. We have walked away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. We have gone along with evil, with pride, quarrelling, and divisiveness, and refused to participate in acts of love, grace, and mercy. Holy God, help us to face up to ourselves, so that, as you move toward us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive your mercy.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Welcome now the abundant grace of God:
in Jesus, your sins are forgiven.
And let God's love comfort and heal your soul.

Redeeming God,
in You, we are always welcome and accepted,
always forgiven and renewed.
Draw us closer to You, today and always. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 16:13-20

SOLO "Offertory" by Beck

-Maria Goodrich

PASTORAL PRAYER

Loving God, we know that you forgive us our trespasses as we must forgive those who trespass against us.

And yet how hard we find it to follow your loving example in our day to day lives.

Help us to resist the temptations of revenge and retribution and turn instead to the loving kindness of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Help us to forgive others for their shortcomings.

Help us also to forgive ourselves for our own shortcomings, for which we know you have already forgiven us.

Loving God, when we are brought low, you help us.

You save our eyes from tears and you keep our feet from falling.

You are ever-pardoning and ever-forgiving.

Let us reflect your love in our treatment of others, and let us work for justice, reconciliation and forgiveness throughout your peoples.

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.

HYMN #726 "The Summons"

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 should your life attract or scar?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Come Labor On”

Organist: Jeffrey Seekins

Soloist: Maria Goodrich