

MORNING WORSHIP

April 11, 2021

Half past Ten O'Clock

Second Sunday of Easter GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

TIME OF MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

WELCOME AND NOTICES

INTROIT

Come, Christians, Join to Sing arr. Joel Raney
Handbell Ensemble: Christine Luppino, Beth Ramsey, Joy Vickers, Julie Harris

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 23, adapted by Joan Stott

Leader: Caring Shepherd, You supply all our needs.

People: We celebrate God who generously cares for all.

Leader: Good Shepherd, You take us by the hand and lead us through the dark and fearful times in life.

People: We celebrate God who shows compassion and understanding.

Leader: Gracious Shepherd, Your goodness and mercy nurtures and blesses us, and it enriches our soul.

People: We celebrate God who restores and refreshes our soul.

We gather to praise the Lord our God. Amen.

*HYMN

"In the Midst of New Dimensions" NEW DIMENSIONS
**In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?**

Refrain

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.**

**Through the flood of starving people, warring factions, and despair,
who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?**

Refrain

**As we stand, a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,
grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.**

Refrain

**We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.**

Refrain

**Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
may your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.**

Refrain

CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Merciful God, in Your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste to the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse Your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and turn them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve You in the world as agents of Your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Titus 3:4-8

“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to His mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure.”

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Titus 1:1-9, 2:1

SERMON

“Faithfully Fit”

Ashlee Anderson

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

BEECHER

**Called as partners in Christ’s service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God’s chosen end.**

**Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring, Christ’s clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.**

**Men and women, richer, poorer, all God’s people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.**

**Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other’s burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.**

**So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person’s sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

Text to Give

704-734-9818

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Be Thou My Vision
Handbell Ensemble

arr. Joel Raney

*DOXOLOGY

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*LITANY OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Gracious God, everything we have comes from You. By Your Spirit You fill us with gifts and good things. Our hearts and lives overflow with Your abundance. With thanksgiving, we bring to You our time, talents, and resources. Use these gifts that You have given us to feed others as we have been fed, to serve others as we have been served, and to bless others as we have been blessed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

For those worshipping in the Sanctuary, please be seated after the Benediction until after the Postlude ends. Then, take caution to maintain social distance as you exit the Narthex.

*Those who are able please stand.