

First Presbyterian Church, Danville, VA

Morning Worship—August 30, 2020

DRAWN IN TO EXPERIENCE GOD’S GRACE

As the chimes ring in the worship hour, we invite people to enter a time of personal reflection and congregational worship. ***Please note: There will be no congregational singing at this time.***

Worship Participants: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Broschart, Heather Perryman, David Clark, C. B. Strange, Tom Gillespie and Gene Hayes

WELCOME & INVOCATION:

There are days when we proclaim you a pest, constantly prodding us to reach out to others.
There are days when we say you are a fool, to imagine we might take up crosses to follow you.
There are days when we lament you, as your world grows more violent, more hurtful, more hateful.

So, this day, let us start over and simply say you are
our Hope,
our Peace,
our Comfort,
our Guide,
our Joy

In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

“Prelude in G Major”

by J. S. Bach

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

Loving God, we proclaim today that, because you are with us, nothing can be against us. So just as you are with us, we are with you, ready to give you our praise and thanksgiving for your abiding presence with us. Receive this worship as our expression of gratitude

HYMN OF WELCOME

“Lift High the Cross”

Call to Reconciliation

We are so much like Peter. Jesus tells us what it will take to follow him, and we want to argue. Jesus shows us the way to the Kingdom and we look for another path. Let us put down all that keeps us from following Jesus, as we confess our lives to God, praying,

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness (The liturgist will pray for the congregation)

We confess our struggle to be transformed into disciples, God of mystery. The desires of the world would shape us into people you would not recognize. The demands of our society pull us away from your heart. Our culture values the rich, the powerful, the successful, but you are on the side of the weak, the poor, the outcast, and the oppressed.

Forgive us, Merciful God, for looking for you in all the wrong places. Reawaken us with your voice that calls us to service; revive our weary hearts with your vision of creation; refresh our fatigued spirits that we might boldly proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and go forth to serve your people, in Christ's name.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

It is so easy to think like the world, that money will give us happiness, that power will earn us grace. But Paul reminds us that if we think like Christ, and live for others, we will find true freedom.

Not only our minds, but may God transform our hearts and spirits into the likeness of Christ, so we may be faithful disciples. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Please stand as you are able

DRAWN TOGETHER TO EMBODY GOD'S GRACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

MUSIC MEDITATION

"Let Us Be Drawn In"

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth E. Broschart

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tom Gillespie

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

O Lord, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:21-27

SERMON:

#We Are the Church – Called to Carry the Cross"

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth E. Broschart

HYMN OF PROMISE

"Take Up Thy Cross"

DRAWN FORTH TO EXTEND GOD'S GRACE

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**** POSTLUDE –**

"Lord, Here Am I"

arr. Alice Jordan

Please remain seated for the final offering of worship

Lift high the cross

(Refrain)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where the Master trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God.

2. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.

3. Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.

4. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally.

5. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory!

Take Up Thy Cross

1. "Take up thy Cross," the Savior said,
"if thou wouldst my disciple be;
deny thyself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me."

2. Take up thy cross, let not its weight
fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,
and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.

3. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let thy foolish pride rebel;
thy Lord for thee the cross endured,
to save thy soul from death and hell.

4. Take up thy cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.