

# ***First Presbyterian Church, Danville, VA***

Morning Worship—August 9, 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, Jackson Weller, Brenna Takata and David Clark

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

If you are spiritually weary and in search of rest,  
if you are mourning and you long for comfort;  
if you are struggling and you desire victory;  
if you recognize that you are a sinner and need a Savior—  
God welcomes you here in the name of Christ.

To the stranger in need of fellowship, to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and to whoever will come— this congregation opens wide her doors and welcomes all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **PRELUDE**

*“Carillon Toccata”*

by Douglas Wagner

### **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Welcome to a time of wonder **and music that calls us home**

Welcome to hear God’s words that inspire and challenge **and to reminders that we are offered holy hospitality -**

Hospitality that teaches us how to open our lives to others **leading us to fully live open minds, open hearts, open doors.**

### **HYMN OF WELCOME**

*“Gather Us In”*

Mr. Haugen describes his inspiration for this hymn in an e-mail: In the first stanza, we find that this community is one of hope where “new light is streaming.” It is also a community of honesty where we can bring both “our fears and our dreamings” into “the light of this day.” This is also a community of inclusiveness that includes “the lost and forsaken” and the “blind and the lame.” Regardless of who we are, we have an identity in this community as we respond to “the sound of our name” (Christian), given at our baptism.

Stanza two continues a description of this inclusive gathering: young and old, “rich and the haughty,” “proud and the strong.” Stanza two also indicates that this is a community that has a history and that the purpose of this community is to “be [a] light to the whole human race” (Matthew 5:14-16).

Stanza three articulates that this is a sacramental community where we receive the “wine and the water” and “bread of new birth.” This nourishment gives the members of this community strength “to be salt for the earth” (Matthew 5:13). The nourishment from this sacramental meal has an ethical result as we show compassion and “fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.”

The concluding stanza clarifies that the work of the kingdom takes place neither “in the dark of buildings confining” nor “in some heaven, light years away.” The work of the kingdom takes place now in the midst of the gathered, inclusive community.

One cannot separate the lively dance-like melody from this effective text. The modal, folk-like quality of the melody literally gives the community the sense that they have gathered in a joyful dance of celebration.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

No one likes to be a stranger. We long for a place to be at home. We don't want to be estranged from other people or from God. Selfish words, actions, and thoughts can drive a wedge between us and the people we love. Unconfessed sin can distance us from God. For all who seek reconciliation, God offers his Son Jesus Christ to stand in the gap between us and God. And God, whose business is reconciliation, bends to hear our confession. In these moments, unburden your hearts before a gracious God:

## **SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, Christ has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. *Col. 1:21-23, NRSV*

### **\*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**

*"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"*

arr. Virginia Halberg

#### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Jackson Weller

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:**

Holy God, your truth and our hope, your love for us and our response, are all so difficult to understand. They are such good news; and so mysterious, it is hard for us to understand. Be with us today and open our hearts, so that we might catch a glimpse of your truth. Speak to each of us today through your word. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 15: 21-28

### **SERMON:**

*"Radical Hospitality"*

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Broschart

### **HYMN OF PROMISE**

*"Let Us Build a Church"*

## **DRAWN FORTH TO EXTEND GOD'S GRACE**

### **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

*"Trumpet Tune"*

by Gordon Young

*The flowers today are given in loving memory of my dear friend,  
Mary Ann LaPlaca, who died May 16, 2020 by Pat Argyrakís.*