Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth E. Broschart, Heather Perryman, Joyce Perez, Nancy Clayton, and C. B. Strange

Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Dedication/Offering

Now, we know how easily we could treat our abundant resources as idols, Holy God, so we will treat them as they truly are, marvelous gifts meant to be shared so others might know of your marvelous presence in their lives. Bless what we offer to you, and use it in service to others, we pray. Amen.

Please place your tithes and offerings in the offering plates at the front of the Sanctuary as you enter or leave.

The flowers that enhance our worship are given in loving memory of Katherine Setzer Barrett Buchanan by Susan Mathena.



First Presbyterian Church

January 31, 2021

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.

Welcome and Invocation

Prelude "Fight the Good Fight" arr. Tom Boyd

Call to Worship

Thinking we know all the answers, yet wondering if we haven't missed something:

we enter this sanctuary of Truth.

In the company of sinners, in cahoots with saints:

we gather as God's people.

Standing by folks of deep, abiding faith;

seated with those who stumble through the Kingdom:

we lift our praise to God.

Hymn of Summons

"Alleluia! Laud and Blessing"

GTG#755

A Time of Reflection It's very simple: all God asks is that we recognize our sin and acknowledge it. And why? When we offer our prayers of confession, God takes them from us and fills our hearts with such an abundance of mercy, we cannot hold it all. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

God our God: we fill our souls with the empty sounds of our culture, and wonder why we are so empty when we need words of hope, of grace, of comfort. We are careful to follow the prescriptions our doctors give us, yet pay little heed to your hopes for us. We puff out our chests over what good people we are, yet do not notice how our pride trips those who seek to follow Jesus.

Forgive us, Holy One, and be gracious to us: astound us with your words, so we may learn your ways, nourish us with your mercy, so we may be filled with life; enter our empty souls, till they overflow with praise for your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Assurance of Pardon

Of all the astounding works of God, this may be the most wonderful: God is gracious and merciful - to us!

What has this to do with us? Everything!

What is this? Good news, of the very best kind!

We are forgiven. We give thanks to our God with all our hearts. Amen.

Young Disciples Heather Perryman

Prayers of the People

Anthem "Christ Be In My Waking" by Larry Shackley

Scripture Reading Mark 1: 21-28

Sermon "Known to Stand our Ground: Called to Justice"

Hymn of Response: "O God of Every Nation" GTG#756

Sending

God sends us into the world.

so we may see Jesus at work in all the desolate places.

As one with compassion, Jesus calls,

so we may follow him to those who live on the fringe of life.

The Spirit opens our ears and our hearts,

so we may hear the cries looking for hope.

(c) 2015 Thom M. Shuman

Postlude "Here I Am, Lord" (Please remain seated)

arr. Mark Hayes

Benediction

Alleluia! Laud and Blessing

Alleluia! Laud and blessing to our God, whose Word is sure; by whose grace we find redemption, in whose love we live secure. Righteousness and rich compassion shall attend us all our days; may God's promise to be faithful echo through our songs of praise!

Alleluia! God sustains us; matchless are the gifts we share: light in darkness, hope in conflict, answers to our deepest prayer. Ours to give as we are given: arms to lift when others fall; images of God's great goodness, faithful servants to God's call.

Alleluia! Holy Parent, all your children now reclaim; may our lives reflect your justice, heirs to your most sacred name. Fill our hearts with understanding, brace our weakness by your might; awesome honor, born in wisdom; your great glory, our delight!

O God of Every Nation

O God of every nation, of every race and land, redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand. Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled, in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.

From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right, from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night, from pride of race and station and blindness to your way, deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.

Lord, strengthen those who labor that all may find release from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase; when hope and courage falter, your still small voice be heard; with faith that none can alter, your servants under-gird.

Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease, when hatred and division give way to love and peace, till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.