

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, September 16, 2018

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

 adapted from C. Longhurst

Leader: Come to the water, all you who thirst—

People: we come to drink deeply from the river of life.

Leader: Come to the water, all you who are weary—

People: we come to rest in the quiet pools of God's love.

Leader: Come to the water, all you who long for justice—

People: we come to be renewed in God's ever-flowing stream.

Leader: For God is here among us,
and pouring out the Spirit on all who come.

People: Let's worship God together.

Receiving the Water

Hymn 593

 HANSON PLACE

Shall We Gather at the River

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God? Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray, we will walk and worship ever all the happy golden day. Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

As we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down; grace our spirits will deliver and provide a robe and crown. Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease; soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

Prayer of Confession

 J. Harader

God of living water, we confess the dryness of our lives: the brittle words we have thought and spoken; the relationships that are crumbling; the arid perspective that centers on self; the cracked and jagged edges of our world. Hear our confession, Gracious One, and pour your mercy upon us, we pray... *(moments for silent reflections)*

Words of Assurance

Anthem

 Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith
Thy Word

Bible Presentation

 Dee Buchanan

Congregational Response: May this word of God be a lamp to your feet and a light to your path. Learn its stories and study its words. Its stories belong to us all, and these words speak to us all. They tell who we are. They tell us that we belong to one another, for we are the people of God.

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.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism (9:00) Ellie James Barley
Luca Ellis Jones
(10:30) Charles Ananda Plank

Congregational Response: With joy we welcome you into this church. Your baptism is not the end but the beginning of a journey of discovering just how much God loves you. This is our blessing to you: "Grow in grace and wisdom and do not fear, for the Lord is with you. Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God."

Hymn 403 I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN
Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian in me heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to ne like Jesus in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory spiritual, arr. T. M. Scott
Wade in the Water

Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Lesson Mark 1:9-11
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Peter Wiley

Hymn 407 NETTLETON
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to
sing thy grace; streams of mercry, never ceasing, call
for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodi-
ous sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise
the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeem-
ing love.

Here I pause along my journey; by thy help thus far
I've come; and I hope, by thy great mercy, safely to
arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God; came to rescue me
from danger, gave his body shed his blood.

O to grace how great a debtor or daily I am called to
be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wander-

ing heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take
and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

Honoring the Ministry of
The Rev. Dr. Richard Clewell

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude Grand Choeur César Franck