

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, September 23, 2018

Prelude Dietrich Buxtehude
Praeludium in A minor, BuxWV 153

Welcome
Introit Enter His Gates T. M. Scott
Chancel Choir

Call to Worship Psalm 100:4-5
Leader: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
and the Holy One's courts with praise.
Give thanks to God, bless God's name.
People: You are truly good, O God.
Your steadfast love endures forever,
and your faithfulness extends to all genera-
tions.

Hymn 216 LANCASHIRE
The Day of Resurrection!
The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad; the
Passover of gladness, the Passover of God. From
death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free, our
Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
our Christ in rays eternal of resurrection light; And,
listening to his accents, may hear so calm and plain
his own "All hail," and, hearing, may raise the victor
strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth her song
begin, the world resound in triumph, and all that is
therein; Let all things seen and unseen their notes of
gladness blend, for Christ the Lord is risen, our joy
that has no end.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*) adapted from L. Viau
We come to you conflicted, Merciful One. We want
to be people who love well and generously share
what you have given us. But we find ourselves need-
ing to be right, striving to win the argument, and
keeping a tight grip on both our stuff and your good
news. We are afraid to be vulnerable and frightened
by too much honesty in others. Forgive us. We need
your faithfulness, your healing, your mercy.
Hear us pray... (*moments for silent reflections*)

Words of Assurance

Anthem Martin Shaw
With a Voice of Singing

Commissioning of the Acolytes

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.

Hymn 430 BROTHER JAMES' AIR
The Lord's My Shepherd

The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want. God makes me
down to lie in pastures green, and leadeth me the quiet
waters by; God leadeth me, God leadeth me the quiet
waters by;

My soul thou dost restore again and me to walk dost
make within the paths of righteousness e'en for thine
own name's sake; within the paths of righteousness

e'en for thine own name's sake;

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear
no ill; for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me
comfort still; for thou art with me, and thy rod and
staff me comfort still;

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup over-
flows; my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup
overflows;

Goodness and mercy all my days shall surely follow
me; and in God's house forevermore my dwelling
place shall be; and in God's house forevermore my
dwelling place shall be;

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory William Dawson
Ain't-a That Good News!

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 Matthew 18:12-14
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Peter Wiley

Hymn 352

OLD 124th

Go Forth for God

Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace, in God's good Spirit daily to increase, till in the kingdom we behold God's face. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;

Go forth for God, go to the world in love; strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak; help the afflicted; richly from above God's love supplies the grace and power we seek. Go forth for God, go to the world in love;

Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the good, be urgent for the right; render to no one evil; Christ at length shall overcome all darkness with his light. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;

Go forth for God, go to the world in joy, to serve God's people everyday and hour, and serving Christ, our ev'ry gift employ, rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude

Max Reger

Toccata in D minor, op. 59, no. 5