

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, October 7, 2018

Prelude Prelude in E-flat Major C. Saint-Saëns

Welcome

Introit *Singet dem Herrn ein neus Lied* H. Schütz

Call to Worship T. Peterson

Leader: God calls us to a feast!

People: The table is set,
and we come from east and west,
from north and south to gather at Christ's
table.

Leader: Compassion, love, and grace
are poured out like fine wine.

People: We come to share our stories and God's
story, to share our hope and our pain,
to share our wisdom and our laughter.

Leader: The table is set,
so come let us worship God together!

Hymn 250 GATHER US IN
Here in This Place

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, now the
dark night has vanished away. See in this space our
fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the
light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in; our spirits inflame. Call to us now, and
we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our
name.

We are the young our lives are a mystery; we are the
old, who yearn for your face. We have been sung
throughout all of history, called to be light to the
whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the
haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong; give

us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to
enter the song.

Here we receive new life in your waters; here we re-
ceive the bread of new birth; here you shall call your
sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the
earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give
us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and
teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that
are true.

Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some
heaven, light years away, here in this place the new
light is shining; now is God present, and now is the
day. Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and
make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

adapted from M. Tirabassi & J. Grant

Gentle God, hear our confessions: Forgive us the
words we have said that have given pain, and the
words we have left unsaid that might have given hope.
Forgive us the actions we have taken that have harmed
friend or stranger, and the things undone that could
have made a difference. Have mercy on us, Grace-filled
one, and grant us peace. Hear our prayers...

(*moments for silent reflections*)

Words of Assurance

Anthem Seed to Sow M. W. Smith

Hymn 194 CONFITEMINI DOMINO
Come and Fill Our Hearts

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O
Lord, are holy. Come and fill our hearts with your
peace, alleluia!

Pastoral Prayer and 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 for-
give 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.

Offertory *Ubi Caritas* M. Duruflé

Where charity and love are, God is there.

Christ's love has gathered us into one.

Let us rejoice and be glad in Him.

Let us fear and let us love the living God.

And may we love each other with a sincere heart. Amen.

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 8:1-10

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Peter Wiley

Hymn 386 ST. BRENDAN'S

We Are One in the Spirit

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, we
are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, and we
pray that all unity may one day be restored: And
they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our
love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side, we will work with each other, we will work side by side, and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

One Bread, One Body J. Foley

Chorus: One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless... and we, though many, throughout the earth; we are one body in this one Lord.

Everyone is welcome to share in this meal.

Please serve one another the gluten free, tree nut and peanut free bread, and eat as you are served symbolizing your individual need for Christ. Hold the cup of juice until all are served, that we may express our unity in Christ by drinking together.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(unison)*

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn 238

AURELIA

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, our Lord; we are his new creation by water and the word; from heaven he came and sought us, for us was cruci-

fied; with his own blood he bought us, and for our life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth, our charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth, one holy name professing, we share one holy food, and to one hope still pressing, with every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war, we wait the consummation of peace for evermore; till with the vision glorious, our longing eyes are blest, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet we on earth have union with God, the Three-in-one, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won. O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude Fugue in E-flat Major C. Saint-Saëns