

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, November 25, 2018

Prelude *Schmucke dich, o liebe Seele* J. Brahms

Welcome

Introit T. M. Scott
Enter His Gates
Chancel Choir

Call to Worship E. M. Dreeben
Leader: Gather us in, O God,
People: Your people are here to worship.
Leader: Hold us in faith, O God,
People: We are here to serve.
Leader: Send us in hope, O God,
People: We are here to follow.

Hymn 3 CONSTANTINE
God of Abraham and Sarah
**God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Moses, Miriam's
Guide; God of David and the prophets, God in Jesus
glorified: up from the dust you raise a people, breathe
in the breath of life, of soul; down through the years
the people praise you till alleluias make them whole!**

**God who dances in creation, spinning stars above our
heads; God whose face is scribed in music, by whose
hand the earth is fed: up from the ground you raise
the mountains, raise our spirits, lift our eyes; down
through the years your people praise you till alleluias
flood the skies!**

**God who loves the poor in spirit, God who comforts
those who mourn; balm for wounds, the friend of sin-
ners, taking the side of earth's forlorn: up from the
depths you raise your people, giving them courage for**

**the day; down through the yeas the people praise you
till alleluias light their way!**

**In our lives from birth to dying, depth of sorrow,
height of joy; praising God in ev'ry season, let ev'ry
key our hearts employ. Praise is the healing, praise the
glory, praise is the final mystery; down through the
years let people praise you till alleluias set them free!**

Prayer of Confession T. Peterson
God, we thank you that you love, you promise, you
call—in that order. We confess that we often see you
in reverse, believing we must earn your regard.
When we see you only as a rule-enforcer, forgetting
that obedience to your way is true freedom, forgive
us. When we see you as doling out rewards we think
we have earned, forgive us. When we are so con-
sumed with the letter of your law that we miss your
Spirit, forgive us. Guide us again into your path and
lead us in your truth—the truth of unending love.
Hear our prayers...

(moments for silent reflections)

Words of Assurance

Anthem R. Stonehill
Shut de Do

Children's Message and Lord's Prayer Dee Buchanan
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 in-
to temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the
kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn 599

FAITHFULNESS

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father! There is
no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not,
Thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou hast been
Thou forever wilt be. Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new
mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath pro-
vided Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above, Join with
all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithful-
ness, mercy, and love. Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new
mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath pro-
vided Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own
dear presence to cheer and to guide; Strength for to-
day and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all
mine, with ten thousand beside! Great is Thy faith-
fulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by
morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy
hand hath provided Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord,
unto me!**

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory H. Schütz
To Thee We Turn Our Eyes

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

Postlude *O Welt, ich muss dich lassen* J. Brahms

Scripture Lesson

Ruth 4:13-17

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Jeanette Brodersen

Hymn 404

BEECHER

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down. Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown; Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest; take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Benediction

Passing of the Peace