

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, March 31, 2019

Prelude L. Boëllmann
Prière à Notre Dame from *Suite Gothique*, op. 25

Welcome

Introit T. M. Scott
Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God
Chancel Choir

Call to Worship S. Kesting

One: In the name of God,

**All: who created us,
who holds us and the whole world.**

One: In the name of the Son,

**All: who came into the world,
who reconciles us with God.**

One: In the name of the Holy Spirit,

All: for God is slow to anger.

One: Praise the Lord your God,

**All: who fills us with eternal life, and incites
us to peace, we come together to offer our
thanks and peace.**

Hymn 368 DENNIS
Blest Be the Tie That Binds

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian
love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that
above.**

**Before God's gracious throne we pour our ardent
prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our
comforts and our cares.**

**We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**

**When we are called to part it gives us inward pain, but
we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet
again.**

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**In you, O God, we find the way to a life well-lived.
Yet, we admit we stray from that path. You call us to
serve in love, but we'd rather find ways to serve our-
selves. You invite us to find relationship and con-
nection in faith, opening ourselves to fellow jour-
neyers, but we sometimes veer off the path in fear,
pride, or an inflated sense of self-sufficiency.**

**In Jesus, you show us how to tell of your good
news, but too often we become timid-reluctant to
share how you bring us life. Forgive us, Gracious
One. Help us return to your path of life, to seek the
good you offer each and all. Hear us pray...**

(moments for silent reflections)

Words of Assurance

Anthem M. Vulpius
Jesus Said to the Blind Man

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.**

Sacrament of Baptism (10:30)

Mason Matthew Marignoni

**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 202 HAMBURG
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

**When I survey the wondrous cross on which the
Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death
of Christ, my God; all the vain things that charm me
most, I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and
love flow mingled down! Dis e'er such love and
sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a pre-
sent far too small; love so amazing, so divine, de-
mands my soul, my life, my all.**

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Christ, the Appletree
New Hampshire, 1784, setting by S. Scriven

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

Luke 15:1-7

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³So he told them this parable: ⁴"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Peter Wiley

Hymn 27

NUN DANKET

Now Thank We All Our God.

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices, who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, and keep us in all grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world and

the next.

All praise and thanks to God almighty now be given; to God, the three-in-one, who reigns in highest heaven, the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore, for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude

J. S. Bach

Fugue in C Major, BWV 547b