

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, May 12, 2019

Prelude Alleluia No. 1 A. D. Miller

Welcome

Introit Spirit of the Living God Alverson
Men's Ensemble

Call to Worship

Leader: God's presence is among us in this place.

People: Here we gather to listen for God.

Leader: The Holy Spirit has called us here.

People: Today we respond to God's spirit.

Leader: Jesus calls us to love another.

People: Here, today, we come to follow Jesus.

Hymn 474 FESTAL SONG

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

Rise up, O saints of God! Have done with lesser things; give heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of Kings!

Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom tarries long. Bring in the day of righteousness, and end the night of wrong.

Rise up, O saints of God! The church for you doth wait, with strength unequal to the task; rise up and make it great.

Lift high the cross of Christ; tread where Christ's feet have trod; come sisters, brothers in the faith, rise up, O saints of God.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Loving God, you know each one of us. You know our struggles to live faithfully: being generous to those in need; being forgiving to those who have hurt us; being patient when there is so much to do; taking time for prayer in the midst of busyness; being loving when judging and criticizing are our first thoughts. Loving God, forgive us and hear us pray...
(moments for silent reflections)

Words of Assurance

Anthem Sacred Harp, arr. Richardson
The Morning Trumpet

Connect in Faith Dee Buchanan

Hymn 327 WATERLIFE

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

I was there to hear your borne cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word I was there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I'll be there to guide you through the night,

complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borne cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

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 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.

Offertory *Veni Creator Spiritus* M. Garau

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, come from thy bright heav'nly throne; come, take possession of our souls, and make them all thine own. Thou who art called the Paraclete, best gift of God above, the living spring, the living fire, sweet unction and true love.

Thou who art sevenfold in thy grace, finger of God's right hand; his promise, teaching little ones to speak and understand. O guide our minds with thy blest light, with love our hearts inflame; and with thy strength, which ne'er decays, confirm our mortal frame.

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

Acts 9:1-6

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Peter Wiley

The Rite of Confirmation (10:30)

Greeting

Confession of Faith

Covenant: **In the presence of God and these witnesses, I give myself unreservedly to God's service, and take this to be my Church. Ever mindful of the welfare of my fellow members, I promise to walk with them in faithfulness and Christian love. And I promise that so far as able, I will attend the services of this Church, observe its sacraments, share in its work, support and benevolence, and endeavor to make it a fruitful body of Christians.**

Laying on of Hands

Hymn 485

BRED DINA VID VINGAR

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make, the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take. The trail is found in desert, and winds the mountain round, then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.

Bless all of us your pilgrims, who share this winding way, whose hope burns through the terrors, whose love sustains the day. We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound. Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.

Divine Eternal Lover, you meet us on the road. We wait for lands of promise where milk and honey flow. But waiting not for places, you meet us all around. Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude

Allegro

F. Mendelssohn