FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, May 26, 2019

Prelude Cornet Voluntary J. Travers

Welcome

Introit Jesus, Remember Me J. Berthier
Chancel Choir

Call to Worship based on Psalm 92
Leader: Come and give thanks to our God.
Sing praises to the holy name.
People: With songs in our hearts,
we declare God's steadfast love in the morning and faithfulness at night.
Leader: How magnificent the works of God.
People: Let us sing our praises of joy!

Hymn 537 **NATIONAL HYMN**
God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand
God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past; in this free land with thee our lot is cast; be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay, thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, be thy strong arm our ever sure defense; thy true religion in our hearts increase; thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on life's toilsome way; lead us from night to never-ending day; fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

Prayer of Confession *(unison)* B. Merrill Neel
There are times, O God, when our greatest sin is not what we do but what we fail to do. For those times when we have not spoken up; for those times when we have not acted; for those times when we have not responded: forgive us. Give us courage to name what is wrong when we see it. Give us confidence to do what is hard. Give us grace to reach out when that is frightening or uncomfortable. This we pray in Jesus' name … *(moments for silent reflections)*

Words of Assurance

Anthem music, D. Elder; poem, H. Trim
Elegy
Day is done, gone the sun, from the lakes,
from the hills, from the sky.
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.
Fading light dims the sight, and a star gems the sky,
gleaming bright.
From afar, drawing nigh, falls the night.
Thanks and praise for our days neath the sun, neath the
stars, neath the sky.
As we go, this we know, God is nigh.

Children's Message and Lord's Prayer **Jen Barden**
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 514 **HESPERUS**
O God of Love, O Power of Peace
O God of love, O Power of peace, make wars throughout the world to cease; the wrath of human sin restrain: give peace, O God, give peace again!

Remember, Lord, thy works of old, the wonders that our forbears told; remember not our sin's dark stain: give peace, O God, give peace again!

Whom shall we trust but thee, O Lord? Where rest but on thy faithful word? None ever called on thee in vain: give peace, O God, give peace again!

Where saints and angels dwell above, all hearts are knit in holy love; O bind us in that heavenly chain; give peace, O God, give peace again!

Pastoral Prayer

Serve with Love **Mark Johnson**

Offertory F. Mendelssohn
But the Lord Is Mindful of His Own
from the St. Paul Oratorio

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 **John 15:12-17**

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I
have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay
down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you
do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants any
longer, because the servant does not know what the master is
doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made
known to you everything that I have heard from my Fa-
ther. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appoint-
ed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Fa-
ther will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am
giving you these commands so that you may love one anoth-
er.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon **Peter Wiley**

Hymn 532 **MATERNA**

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

O Beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed all grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern, impassioned stress a thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness! America! America! God mend thine every flaw, confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life! America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears! America! America! God shed all grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude Young/Hopson

Recessional on St. Anne