

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, July 7, 2019

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship adapted from Ps. 30

One: Sing praises to our LORD:

All: who heals us and makes us whole.

One: Sing praises to our LORD, faithful children of God:

All: whose joy rises in our lives each and every day.

One: Sing praises to our LORD, beloved of God;

All: we give thanks to God's holy name.

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.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

adapted from N. C. Townley-

Merciful God, in all our celebration, fireworks, parades, and gatherings we have proclaimed liberty and freedom. Yet our hearts are too often bound by anger, cynicism, and fear. We live constrained by those bounds, often not knowing that there is really any other way. We have become accustomed to our self-imposed limits. Forgive us when we turn away from your freeing love. Help us to place our trust in you, that we would know your healing love. Have mercy on us; hear us pray... (*moments for silent reflections*)

Words of Assurance

Anthem J. Rutter

God Be in My Head  
*Chancel Chamber Choir*

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.

Hymn 402 MARYTON

O Christ, the Healer

O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?

From every ailment flesh endures our bodies clamor to be freed; yet in our hearts we would confess that wholeness is our deepest need.

How strong, O Christ, are our desires, how weak our knowledge of ourselves! Release in us those healing truths unconscious pride resists or shelves.

In conflicts that destroy our health we recognize the world's disease; our common life declares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your community may find the wholeness that, enriching us, shall reach the whole of humankind.

Offertory A. Parker

Be Thou My Vision

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 2 Kings 5:1-14

*Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. <sup>2</sup>Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. <sup>3</sup>She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." <sup>4</sup>So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of*

Israel had said. <sup>5</sup>And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. <sup>6</sup>He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." <sup>7</sup>When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."<sup>8</sup>But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." <sup>9</sup>So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. <sup>10</sup>Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." <sup>11</sup>But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy!" <sup>12</sup>Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. <sup>13</sup>But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" <sup>14</sup>So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

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

**Sermon**

**Jeanette Brodersen**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*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** 325

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Now Let Us from This Table Rise

**Now let us from this table rise, renewed in body, mind and soul; with Christ we die and live again, his selfless love has made us whole.**

**With minds alert, upheld by grace, to spread the Word in speech and deed, we follow in the steps of Christ, at one with all in hope and need.**

**To fill each human house with love, it is the sacrament of care; the work that Christ began to do we humbly pledge ourselves to share.**

**Then give us grace, Companion God, to choose again the pilgrim way, and help us to accept with joy the challenge of tomorrow's day.**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**