

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, July 28, 2019

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship based on Psalm 19

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

All: Day to day and night to night, unending is their speech of beauty and wonder.

One: How shall we join in their joyful witness?

All: With words that proclaim God's love, with works that bring forth God's justice, with worship that rejoices in God's wondrous presence, now and always.

Hymn 54 DIX

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For each perfect gift of thine unto us so freely given, graces, human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*) adapted from L. Bayer

Ever-present God, we admit to you our unloving thoughts and deeds. We live by standards that we bend and break in our own favor, while ignoring the commandments you have given us. We find it hard to love as you call us to do. It is easier to treat people as things than to listen for their needs. We withhold ourselves rather than offer our lives in love and service. Forgive us, Gracious One, we pray... (*moments for silent reflections*)

Words of Assurance

Anthem Pie Jesu A. L. Webber

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 into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn 206 LORD OF THE DANCE

I Danced in the Morning

I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth; at Bethlehem I had my birth. Dance, then, wher-

ever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee, but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and John, they came with me and the Dance went on. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame, the holy people said it was a shame; they whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high, and left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black; it's hard to dance with the devil on your back; they buried my body and they thought I'd gone, but I am the Dance and I still go on. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

They cut me down and I leapt up high; I am the life that'll never, never die; I'll live in you if you'll live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory For the Beauty of the Earth J. Rutter

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 Genesis 18:20-32, pg 13 OT

²⁰Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know." ²²So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Steve Hockstra

Hymn 445

SLANE

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; nought be all else to me save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; Thou my Redeemer, my love thou hast won; thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always; thou and thou only, first in my heart, Ruler of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude