

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, August 11, 2019

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

R. Bott

Leader: As people, as a community of faith —

People: we gather in this place.

Leader: To listen,

People: to speak,

Leader: to worship,

People: to pray, to be with God.

Leader: Because we know —

People: It is out of God's love that we live. Alleluia!

Hymn 96

CORNISH CAROL

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

Creating God, your fingers trace the bold designs of farthest space; let sun and moon and stars and light and what lies hidden praise your might.

Sustaining God, your hands uphold earth's mysteries known or yet untold; let water's fragile blend with air, enabling life, proclaim your care.

Redeeming God, your arms embrace all now despised for creed or race; let peace, descending like a dove, make known on earth your healing love.

Indwelling God, your gospel claims one family with a billion names; let every life be touched by grace until we praise you face to face.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

T. Watson

Merciful One, we come to you in a spirit of confession and hope. We remember the times when we have not shown love through our thoughts, words, and actions. We seek forgiveness. We remember the times when we have been hurt by the words and actions of others. Help us to forgive. We remember the times when we have been distracted from seeking after you. Make yourself known to us, help us to see you in the midst of the noise and clamor of this world, and show us the path of faithfulness once again. Hear our prayers...

(*moments for silent reflections*)

Words of Assurance

Anthem

Quaker, arr. G. Walker

How Can I Keep from Singing

Women's Ensemble

Blessing of the Backpacks

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 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.

Offertory

W. Hawkins, arr. M. Sirvatka

I'm Goin' Up a-Yonder

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 12:32-40

³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. ³⁹“But

know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Sermon

Peter Wiley

Hymn 100

BONHOEFFER

By Gracious Powers

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered, and confidently waiting, come what may, we know that God is with us night and morning, and never fails to greet us each new day.

Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented, still evil days bring burdens hard to bear; O give our frightened souls the sure salvation for which, O God, you taught us to prepare.

And when this cup you give is filled to brimming with bitter suff'ring, hard to understand, we take it thankfully and without trembling, out of so good and so beloved a hand.

Yet when again in this same world you give us the joy we had, the brightness of your sun, we shall remember all the days we lived through, and our whole life shall then be yours alone.

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude