

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, August 25, 2019

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship based on Psalm 103

Leader: With all our voices,

People: we come to praise God's holy name.

Leader: With all our hearts,

People: we gather in thanksgiving for all God has done for us.

Leader: Bless the LORD.

People: All that is within us, bless God's holy name!

Hymn 39 AZMON
O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!

My gracious Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth aboard the honors of your name.

Jesus! The name that calms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease, is music in the sinner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!

Glory to God, and praise and love be ever, ever given by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

adapted from N. Townley

Merciful One, we can become so bound by rules and regulations that we fail to see the human need that goes beyond the bounds of structures. We turn our backs on those in need, giving the responsibility to someone else; and in doing so, we reveal our selfishness and our inability to be your disciples. Stop us from our selfish ways, and heal our hardened hearts. Forgive us, again, as you have so often before when we have failed you. Hear us pray...
(moments for silent reflections)

Words of Assurance

Anthem spiritual, arr. M. Richardson
Steal Away
Men's Ensemble

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 497 GO DOWN MOSES
When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

When Israel was in Egypt's land, let my people go, oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go, Go down, Moses, 'way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh, let my people go.

Thus saith the Lord, bold Moses said, let my people go, if not I'll smite your firstborn dead, let me people

go, Go down, Moses, 'way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh, let my people go.

The Lord told Moses what to do, let my people go, to lead the Hebrew children through, let my people go, Go down, Moses, 'way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh, let my people go.

Then Miriam danced and sang her song, let my people go, "Our God has triumphed over wrong!" let my people go, Go down, Moses, 'way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh, let my people go.

Oh, let us all from bondage flee, let my people go, and let us all in Christ be free, let my people go, Go down, Moses, 'way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh, let my people go.

Offertory Spafford/Bliss, arr. E. Nelson
It Is Well with My Soul

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 13:10-17
¹⁰Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. ¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." ¹⁵But the

Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?” ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

Sermon

Peter Wiley

Hymn 403

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. In my heart,
in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. In my heart,
in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. In my heart,
in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. In my heart,
in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.**

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude