

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, September 15, 2019

Prelude Allegretto F. Mendelssohn

Welcome

Introit Enter His Gates T. M. Scott
Chancel Choir

Call to Worship adapted from C. Longhurst

Leader: Come to the water, all you who thirst—

People: we come to drink deeply from the river of life.

Leader: Come to the water, all you who are weary—

People: we come to rest in the quiet pools of God's love.

Leader: Come to the water, all you who long for justice—

People: we come to be renewed in God's ever-flowing stream.

Leader: For God is here among us,
and pouring out the Spirit on all who come.

People: Let's worship God together.

Receiving the Water

During the hymn, please come forward down the center aisle with your bottle and pour the water into one of the pitchers.

Place the empty bottle and blue card (if you have it) in one of the baskets. Return to your seat by the side aisles.

Hymn 593 HANSON PLACE
Shall We Gather at the River

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God? Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray, we will walk and worship ever all the happy golden day. Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

As we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down; grace our spirits will deliver and provide a robe and crown. Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease; soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*) J. Harader
God of living water, we confess the dryness of our lives: the brittle words we have thought and spoken; the relationships that are crumbling; the arid perspective that centers on self; the cracked and jagged edges of our world. Hear our confession, Gracious One, and pour your mercy upon us, we pray...
(*moments for silent reflections*)

Words of Assurance

Anthem Let the River Run Carly Simon

Children's Message and Lord's Prayer

Katie Morgan
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.

Sacrament of Baptism (10:30) Penelope Jane Baylor

Sung Response: Jesus Loves Me JESUS LOVES ME
Angel Choir (PreS-K)

Congregational Response: With joy we welcome you into this church. Your baptism is not the end but the beginning of a journey of discovering just how much God loves you. This is our blessing to you: "Grow in grace and wisdom and do not fear, for the Lord is with you. Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God."

Hymn 250 GATHER US IN
Here in This Place

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, now the dark night has vanished away. See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits inflame. Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we receive new life in your waters; here we receive the bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

