

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, November 17, 2019

Prelude F. Mendelssohn
Prelude in G Major, Op. 37, No. 3

Welcome

Introit

Call to Worship

One: We gather in this holy place,
lifting our voices in praise.

All: We come to offer ourselves,
heart and soul and mind and strength.

One: We seek God's presence,
opening ourselves to God's living Word.

All: We come to be filled by the Holy Spirit,
breath of all creation.

One: Wherever two or three are gathered,
Christ is among us.

All: Let us worship the living God together.

Hymn 249 UNSER HERRSCHER
Open Now Your Gates of Beauty

Open now your gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter
there, where my soul in joyful duty, waits for God
who answers prayer. O how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and grace!

Gracious God, I come before you; may I stand on holy
ground; where I find you and adore you, there my
heaven on earth is found. To my heart O freely come,
let this temple be your home.

God, my faith increase and quicken, let me keep your
gift divine; even when temptations thicken, may your
word still o'er me shine, as my polestar through my

life, as my comfort in my strife.

Speak, O God, and I will hear you, let your will be
done, indeed; may I undisturbed draw near you, may
your Word my longings feed: here, with life, your
fountain flows, here is balm for all my woes.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Gentle God, we come before you in honesty and
with our need for reconciliation with others. We
have done deeds we deeply regret. We have spoken
words that have hurt others. We have trapped our-
selves in false expectations, and we have accepted
transient goods to satisfy our deepest longings. We
have failed to reach out hand and heart to others in
need. We have been silent when our words could
have made a difference. We have not believed in
ourselves. Have mercy on us, O God, and help us be
at peace with all your children, we pray...

(*moments for silent reflections*)

Words of Assurance

Anthem Jesus Said to the Blind Man M. Vulpius

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 glo-
ry forever. Amen.

Hymn 406

BLEST ARE THEY

Blest Are They

Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the king-
dom of God. Blest are they who dwell in sorrow;
they shall be consoled. Rejoice and be glad! Blessed
are you, holy are you. Rejoice and be glad! Yours is
the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, the meek and lowly; they shall inherit
the earth. Blest are they who thirst and hunger; they
shall have their fill. Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are
you, holy are you. Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the
kingdom of God.

Blest are they who show God's mercy; mercy shall be
their reward. Blest are they, the pure of heart; they
shall see their God! Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are
you, holy are you. Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the
kingdom of God.

Blest are they who search for peace; they are the chil-
dren of God. Blest are they who suffer in faith;
heaven's joy is theirs. Rejoice and be glad! Blessed
are you, holy are you. Rejoice and be glad! Yours is
the kingdom of God.

"Blest are you who suffer hatred, all for my sake," Je-
sus said. Rejoice, be glad, for yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see. Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are
you, holy are you. Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the
kingdom of God.

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

arr. W. Dawson

Ezekiel Saw de Wheel
Chancel Choir/revoice

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 19:1-10
He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Sermon Jeanette Brodersen

Hymn 404 BEECHER
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down. Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown; Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest; take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then thy new creation ; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude F. Mendelssohn
Fugue in G Major, Op. 37, No. 3

Service Notes:

Call to Worship adapted from *Litury Link*, the Rev. Teri Peterson.
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