

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, January 5, 2020

Prelude

Welcome

Choral Introit 15th C. English
Verbum Caro Factum Est
Chancel Choir

Call to Worship

Leader: On this day, we celebrate the gift of
God's Word,

**People: who gathers us together to worship in joy
and hope.**

Leader: On this day, we remember the simple graces
of the bread and the cup,

**People: those plain gifts shaped by God's love into
nourishing hope.**

Leader: On this day, we worship and give thanks.

**People: Praise be to God, creator of all,
word made flesh, spirit of truth!**

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 dreaming's, brought here to you in
the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and for-
saken; 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 re-
ceive 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.

Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some
heaven, light years away, here in this place the new
light is shining; now is God present, and now is the
day. Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and
make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Jesus Christ, God with us, you came that we may
have life and have it more abundantly. We have not
always lived up to your call to us. We confess too
often we are impoverished of spirit; grant us the
fullness of grace. We become wrapped us in our-
selves; open us to others. We can be proud over
little; humble our hearts in service. We are distract-
ed of mind; direct us to what is most important—
your love for us, your will for our lives, your sus-
taining presence in all circum-stances. Hear our
prayers... *(moments for silent reflections)*

Words of Assurance

Anthem G. F. Handel
How Beautiful Are the Feet
from *Messiah*

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

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 167 FESTAL SONG
Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey; show
forth the glory of your God which shines on you to-
day.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the
poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those
who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in
song! Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r
will make us strong.

Offertory spiritual adapted by W. Appling
Yonda Come Day

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

John 1: 1-5, 10-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Sermon

Jeanette Brodersen

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Everyone is welcome to share in this meal.

Please serve one another the gluten free, tree nut and peanut free bread, and eat as you are served symbolizing your individual need for Christ. Hold the cup of juice until all are served, that we may express our unity in Christ by drinking together.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(unison)*

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the

world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn 325

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Now Let Us from This Table Rise

Now let us from this table rise, renewed in body, mind and soul; with Christ we die and live again, his selfless love has made us whole.

With minds alert, upheld by grace, to spread the Word in speech and deed, we follow in the steps of Christ, at one with all in hope and need.

To fill each human house with love, it is the sacrament of care; the work that Christ began to do we humbly pledge ourselves to share.

Then give us grace, Companion God, to choose again the pilgrim way, and help us to accept with joy the challenge of tomorrow's day.

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude

Service Notes:

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