

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, January 26, 2020

Prelude Folk-song C. Armstrong Gibbs

Welcome

Choral Introit

9:00 Jubilate Deo M. Praetorius
Explorer Choir

10:30 Enter His Gates T.M. Scott
Chancel Choir

Call to Worship

Leader: One thing we ask of God, this is what we seek:

People: to dwell in the Holy One's house all the days of our lives; to behold God's beauty and know Love's plan.

Leader: Let us enter God's presence together,

People: offering our worship and praise, singing and praying with joy.

Hymn 243 AS WE ARE GATHERED
As We Are Gathered

As we are gathered, Jesus is here; one with each other, Jesus is here. Joined by the Spirit built up in love, part of the body, the church of God.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of grace and mercy, we are reluctant to admit all the ways we have failed to be your people.

Created to be one Body, we are often torn apart by petty squabbles. Called to follow, we push and shove for first place in line. Invited to seek your face, we have trouble looking our sisters and brothers in the eye. You have promised to be our

Light, and so we ask that you lead us from the shadows of our sin and brokenness. Hear our prayers...

(moments for silent reflections)

Words of Assurance

Anthem

9:00 Behold, God Is My Salvation J. Lindh
Explorer Choir

10:30 Sheep May Safely Graze J.S. Bach
Chancel Choir

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.

Hymn 599 FAITHFULNESS
Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father! There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above, Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine, with then thousand beside!

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory All Praise to Thee T. Tallis

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 Isaiah 9:1-4

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ² The people who walked in darknesses have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across

their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Sermon

Peter Wiley

Hymn 523

TRURO

Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand

Great God, we sing that mighty hand by which supported still we stand; the opening year your mercy shows; may mercy crown it till it close.

By day, by night, at home, abroad, still we are guarded by our God: by God's incessant bounty fed and by unerring counsel led.

With grateful hearts the past we own; the future, all to us unknown, we to your guardian care commit, and, peaceful, at your feet shall sit.

In scenes exalted or depressed, you are our joy, our promised rest; your goodness all our hopes shall raise, adored through all our changing days.

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude

Voluntary

Jules Massenet

Service Notes:

Call to Worship based on Psalm 27, adapted, *Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness*, Nan C. Merrill © Continuum International Publishing Group, 2001.

Prayer of Confession, adapted, from *Playing Hopscotch in Heaven: Lectionary Liturgies for RCL Year A*, the Rev. Thom M. Shuman © 2013 Thom M. Shuman. Used with permission.

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