

The Worship of God

Listening Alongside: Echoing Christ

March 19, 2017

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Eleven O'Clock

The worship of God begins with the music of the organ. We encourage you to use this time for meditation and reflection. Please refrain from conversation which would disturb others. Following the service, greet our visitors and share your friendship with those around you. Wireless hearing aids are available in the narthex.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

ORGAN PRELUDE: I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ (BWV 639) J.S. Bach

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: When We Are in the Greatest Distress (BWV 641) J.S. Bach

CHORAL INTROIT O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call answer me. Come and listen to me. The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God: God, the wellspring of life.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 95: "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun" DUKE STREET
(The congregation rises as the organist begins the hymn.)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

People: How can we rejoice? We have brothers and sisters, all over the world, who face issues which may affect their rejoicing.

Minister: This is a day to remember all who face oppression and exploitation of various kinds.

People: A time to be challenged to greater action and service, to improve the conditions of all who cry out for justice.

Minister: This is not only a day for rejoicing, but also a day to seek the truth and face the truth; a day when we must not turn away into comfortable enclaves of silence.

People: It is a day of hope that the truth will set all people free. Yes, this is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. *Christian Youth from India*

* THE GLORIA PATRI 35 GREATOREX

* THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL ADORATION Taizé

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice! Look to God, do not be afraid; lift up your voices, the Lord is near; lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Minister: By self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, self-denial and acts of generosity, reading and meditating on the word of God, and by listening for God, we endeavor to keep a holy Lent. Let us now confess our sin to God.

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Silent prayers of confession

Minister: God is slow to anger and full of compassion. He forgives all who humbly repent and trust in his Son as Savior and Lord. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. By the mercy of Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

MEDITATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 100

RESPONSE

Minister: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: "I Will Joyfully Sing"

Mary McDonald

I will joyfully sing in the morning; I will joyfully sing all the day; I'll sing praises to thee in the morning, for the Lord is the strength of my day. I will lift up my eyes in the morning, for the Lord will not turn me away; I'll sing praises to thee in the morning, for the Lord is the strength of my day. I will sing! I will sing! I will sing of praises, his goodness to me. I will sing!

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* HYMN (See insert.): "Show Us How to Stand for Justice" PLEADING SAVIOR

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

ORGAN OFFERTORY: Improvisation Mark Pichowicz

* THE DOXOLOGY OLD HUNDRETH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

We give thanks for our Lakeside Preschool which has been providing education and nurture for young children in our community since 1992. The Acolyte places building blocks on the altar.

PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" arr. John Rutter

The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never, I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever. Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth, and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me, and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me. In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me; thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me. Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth; and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth! And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: John 2:1-11

SERMON: "Listen for the Laughter" Dr. Wright

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Minister: We believe in God the Creator, who spoke and the stars, planets, and vastness of the universe were formed, who called out for plants and animals to inhabit the earth, and who whispered each of us to life.

All: We have ears to hear! Let us listen!

Minister: We believe in God the Son, whose infant cries and childish laughter made him our brother, whose words offered comfort and insight, challenge and hope, and whose cries on the cross and alleluias in the garden brought us eternal life.

All: We have ears to hear! Let us listen!

Minister: We believe in God the Spirit, who daily reminds us of divine love and compassion, who counsels us toward justice, mercy, and humility, and who encourages us to echo Christ to the world.

All: We have ears to hear! Let us listen!

THE CALL TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

