

The Worship of God

April 15, 2018

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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 and turn off or silence all electronic devices. Following the service, greet our visitors and share your friendship with those around you.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

ORGAN PRELUDE: Toccata

Johann Krieger

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: Melody in D

S. Bath

CHORAL INTROIT

Bernard Kyamanywa

Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to him praises be. Jesus is living! Let us all sing; he reigns triumphant, heavenly King. Let us sing praise to him with endless joy. Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy. Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 231: "Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us"

HOLY MANNA

(The congregation rises as the organist begins the hymn.)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Chandler Lamm

Minister: In the presence of a God whose word has called the earth and the stars into being,

People: We stand in awe.

Minister: In the presence of a God whose arms have held children,

People: We stand in trust.

Minister: In the presence of a God whose breath has stirred within us and caused our hearts to ache with compassion,

People: We stand in need.

Minister: Before you, Giver of life, we come in faith, in search of love and wholeness and guidance.

All: Be with us; hear us; help us, we pray.

* THE GLORIA PATRI 35

GREATOREX

* THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL ADORATION

Gene Grier/Lowell Everson

He is risen from the grave! Alleluia! He has rolled the stone away! Alleluia!

He is risen today! Alleluia!

(Ushers will seat those waiting.)

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

THE CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess, O God, that we have been less than child-like in our minds and hearts. We have labored for that which does not satisfy and given ourselves to things that do not build up the family of God. We have been selfish and self-serving and have cared little for your concerns in the world. Forgive us, and redeem us, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

MEDITATION

THE GOSPEL LESSON:

Luke 24:36-48

Charlie Lane

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SOLO: "Goin' Home" Paul Langford/based on Antonin Dvorak's "Largo" from *Symphony No. 9*

Goin' home, goin' home, I'm just goin' home, quiet like some still day, I'm just goin' home. It's not far, just close by, through an open door. My work's all done, cares laid by, goin' to fear no more. Mother's there 'spectin' me, and father's waitin' too, lots of folk are gathered there, all the friends I knew. Home, home, I'm goin' home. Nothin's lost, all's gain. No more fret or pain, no more stumbling on the way, and no more longin' for the day, goin' to roam no more. Mornin' star lights the way, restless dreams all done, shadow's gone, break of day, real life's just begun. There's no break, there's no end, just a-livin' on, I'm wide awake with a smile, goin' on and on. Goin' home, goin' home, I'm just goin' home. Goin' home, goin' home, home, I'm goin' home. Home, I'm goin' home.

Bo Browder, soloist

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* HYMN 190:

"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

STORIES OF JESUS

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

ORGAN OFFERTORY: Improvisation

Mark Pichowicz

* THE DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

This morning we give thanks for The Down East Partnership for Children which has as its mission: "Improving the Education and Health of Children in Nash & Edgecombe Counties." The Acolyte brings forward reading books and places them on the altar.

PROCLAMATION

DUET: "Children of the Heavenly Father"

Swedish Folk Melody/arr. Jeremy S. Bakken

Children of the heavenly Father safely in his bosom gather; nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given. God his own shall tend and nourish; in his holy courts they flourish. From all evil things he spares them; in his mighty arms he bears them. Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever; unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth. Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh, his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

Catherine Cobb and Maggie Paszek, soloists

THE EPISTLE LESSON:

I John 3:1-3

Will Robillard

SERMON:

"A Holy Calling"

Dr. Wright

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in the God of children, who ordains his truths to come from the mouths of babes and receives them into his heavenly kingdom;

We believe in the God of young people, who guides them in the course of their development and calls them into his eternal service;

We believe in the God of young adults, who blesses them with work for their hands and hope for the world they are building;

We believe in the God of older adults, who forgives their shortcomings, hears their prayers for the young, and helps them to see the beauty of all their relationships;

We believe in the God of the elderly, who prepares them even in this life for the blessedness of the life to come, and whispers in their sleep of the wholeness that awaits them beyond;

We believe in the God of all ages, who himself is ageless but walks with us in every age.

All glory be given to God now and forever. Amen.

