

The Worship of God

May 24, 2015

PENTECOST SUNDAY

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: Prelude and Fugue in d Johann Ernst Eberlin

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: Arioso Joseph Jenkins

CHORAL INTROIT Thomas Tallis

Come, Holy Spirit, fill this place, anoint these servants with your grace. Inspire and guard them with your might and be, Creator, their delight. Come, Holy Spirit, come renew this church commissioned to pursue the Pentecostal wind and flame proclaimed today in Jesus' name.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 237: "On Pentecost They Gathered" MUNICH
(The congregation rises as the organist begins the hymn.)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Young and old, sons and daughters of God, all you who are the diverse creations of God's imagination and love, join in praise and thanksgiving as we worship the One who brings us together.

People: We come to this place, bringing our varied stories, our unique gifts, and our distinct calls to serve.

Minister: We come together in partnership and mission, knowing that we are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to serve others, to seek justice, and to offer the hope of the Resurrected Christ.

People: We are called to be the body of Christ—a community of believers, a household of faith, a communion of saints, the people of the covenant.

Minister: We are called to the one hope of our high calling—one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

People: As members of the body of Christ, we covenant together in this hour to build on our sure foundation of Jesus Christ our Lord and to seek the vision of Christ's hope of the world. Sharlande Sledge, *Prayers & Litanies for the Christian Seasons*

* THE GLORIA PATRI 35 GREATOREX

* THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL ADORATION Richard Warner

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! In his temple God be praised; in the high and heavenly places be the sounding anthem raised. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! All that breathe, Jehovah praise; let the voices God hath given joyful anthems to him raise.

(Ushers will seat those waiting.)

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

THE CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have not forgotten to pray. We have not failed to rely upon you for strength. We have not placed the blame for life's tragedy at your feet. Yet we may mistake our desires for your will, O God. We may confuse our vengeance with your righteousness. We may misunderstand our image of you as the only revelation you have made to humanity. Save us from any arrogance of faith, and grant us the humility of your justice which often includes sacrifice such as we have known through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

MEDITATION

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 28:16-20

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: "We are Singing, for the Lord is Our Light" arr. Hal H. Hopson
(A Traditional Zulu Song based on Psalm 27:1-4)

We are singing for the Lord is our light. Oh, we are singing, for the Lord is our light.

The Lord is the strength of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid? Though foes may be near to destroy; the Lord will be our light. One thing have we asked of the Lord, yes, this is the thing we seek: to dwell in the house of the Lord, to live with God forever. When burdens are heavy to bear, our shelter is God alone. Our feet are lifted high, yes, high upon a rock. We walk in the strength of the Lord, God's love is ever sure. We shout that the world may hear, we sing a joyful song.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* HYMN 62: "Creator God, Creating Still" ST. ANNE

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

ORGAN OFFERTORY: Lobe Den Herren Johann Gottfried Walther

* 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 Alliance of Baptists and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship which enable us to share God's love through Christ with the world. The Acolyte brings forward a globe and places it on the altar.

PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM: "The Church's One Foundation" Samuel Wesley/arr. Jay Althouse

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord. She is His new creation by water and the word. From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride. With his own blood he bought her and for her life he died. Elect from ev'ry nation yet one o'er all the earth, her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth. One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food; and to one hope she presses with ev'ry grace endued. Yet she on earth hath union with God the three in one, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won. O, happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, like them the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee. The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord. She is His new creation by water and the word. From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride. With his own blood he bought her and for her life he died. Amen.

THE HISTORY LESSON: Acts 2:1-21

SERMON: "A New Picture" Dr. Wright

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

As people of faith, we embrace fully the promise of God, not as a mere pledge to be fulfilled, but as a distinct change from the past for the present. God's promise to us is light, not darkness; order, not chaos; peace, not war; righteousness, not sin; salvation, not estrangement; hope, not despair.

As people of faith, we enter joyfully into covenant with God, that his promise might be realized in us. Therefore, we are now united with God, and our covenant is bound by Jesus the Christ, whose example we emulate and whose path we follow. Amen.

