

The Worship of God

November 19, 2017 **THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** 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: Trio Sonata I, Allegro moderato in E^b J. S. Bach

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: Diapason Movement W. Henry Maxfield

CHORAL INTROIT Shaker Hymn/arr. Margaret Mealy

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be, and when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'twill be in the valley of love and delight. When true simplicity is gained to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed, to turn, turn, will be our delight till by turning, turning we come round right.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 718: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
(The congregation rises as the organist begins the hymn.)

* CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 30 Trevor Lane

Deacon: I will celebrate your love, O God, for you have lifted me up and not allowed my fears and sins to mock me.

People: Sing your best praises to the Lord, people of faith, and give thanks to God's holy name.

Deacon: God is not distant from any one of us, waking or sleeping we are in his hands.

People: Sing your best praises to the Lord, people of faith, and give thanks to God's holy name.

Deacon: We have seen the true glory of God in the shining face of Jesus Christ.

People: Sing your best praises to the Lord, people of faith, and give thanks to God's holy name.

* THE GLORIA PATRI 35 GREATOREX

* THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL ADORATION William Byrd

Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tu o da gloriam.

Not unto us, O Lord, not to us, but unto thy name be the glory.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

THE CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess, O God, that we are not certain how we feel today. We are still worried and frightened and angry over the events of the past. We know you care for us, but we so often feel abandoned and alone. We know that you will provide in the days ahead, but we cannot see any further than the frightful present. Forgive us for the times we have failed to believe. Forgive us for forgetting to trust. Forgive us for not relying upon your grace, and grant to us your pardon; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

MEDITATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 121

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: "I Will Lift Mine Eyes to the Hills" David N. Childs

I will lift mine eyes to the hills, whence cometh my help? My help comes from God, the Maker of heaven and earth. The Lord God watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from harm; your Maker will watch over you; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forever more.

Psalm 121, paraphrased

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* HYMN 88: "All My Hope on God Is Founded" NEANDER

* 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!**

PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM: "All Good Gifts" arr. Penny Rodriguez

All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above; then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love. We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand; he sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain, the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain. Come, all thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home. All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin; God, our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied. Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home. We thank you then, O Father, for all things bright and good: the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food. No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts, but that which you desire, our humble, thankful hearts.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 25:14-30

SERMON: "Can We Trust God?" Dr. Wright

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

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.

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.

THE CALL TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

