

Celebration of Worship

November 19, 2017

9:30 A.M.

We welcome you to worship. We are glad that you are here! Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. The Young and Young at Heart are welcomed to the front early on for a special time in the service. Please sign the Friendship Pads so that we can get to know you better, and join us for coffee in the Narthex after the service.

Thoughts for Reflection

“You have not lived a perfect day unless you’ve done something for someone who will never be able to repay you.”

Ruth Smeltzer

“Before I write something, I wash my hands. I always want to say I approached [my work] with clean hands – you know; a symbolic cleansing.”

August Wilson

Order of Worship

WELCOME

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE *Simple Gifts* Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)
from the hymn “Choose Ye This Day” by Fannie Crosby (1880-1915)

Leader: A blessing for you – will you take it?

People: Let us choose today.

Leader: A word from the heart – will you speak it?

People: We will choose today.

Leader: Will you believe, or your Savior neglect?

People: Will you receive, or his mercy reject?

Leader: Pause, ere you answer; Oh, pause and reflect.

People: We will serve the Lord.

* Please stand, if you are able.

* PRAISE SONGS *Come, Now Is the Time to Worship* Screen
Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)
Praise Team

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message *Building Up Each Other*

Prayer
(Children in Preschool through 5th Grade are dismissed for Sunday School.)

GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 5:7-8* p. 785

ANTHEM *Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart* Willan
Chancel Choir

Rejoice, ye pure in heart; Rejoice, give thanks and sing;
Your festal banner raise on high, the Cross of Christ your King.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Bright youth and snow-crowned age, strong men and maidens meek,
Raise high your free exulting song, God’s wondrous praises speak.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

With all the angel choirs, with all the saints on earth,
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rapture, noblest mirth.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Your clear Hosannas raise, and Alleluias loud;
Whilst answering echoes upward float, like wreaths of incense cloud.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

With voice and full and strong as ocean’s surging praise,
Send forth the hymns our fathers love, the psalms of ancient days.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice give thanks and sing.

Praise him who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore,
The Father, Son and Holy Ghost, One God forevermore.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

SERMON *The Way to Mercy Is Through Mercy,*
and the Way to God is Through an Open, Unobstructed, Pure Heart
Pastor Larry De Vuyst *Matthew 5:7-8*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

With all Christians everywhere,

We believe in one God, who made everything.

The Father sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross.

Jesus rose again as Lord of all, that we might live forever with him.

God sent his Holy Spirit to live in us, that we might grow more like Jesus. Amen.

MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Give Thanks* arr. Page
Alleluia Bells

DOXOLOGY (# 592) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

LITANY OF PRAYER (responsively)

God of wisdom, we pray for the leaders of our community, our state, and the world. Help them to govern with wisdom and compassion, not overlooking the least among us. In your mercy,

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

God of all creation, we are thankful to live in a place where we can worship you as we choose. We pray for all those people who place their lives at risk to praise you. We give you thanks for their witness. Help us to praise you with such boldness. In your mercy,

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

God of love, we lift up those among us who suffer in body or mind or spirit. May they know your strength and your healing touch. In your mercy,

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

God of grace, we pray this morning for all those who are caregivers. We know it isn't always easy to be a cheerful care provider. Help us to be patient and gentle; provide our loved ones with the rest and respite care they need. In your mercy,

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

God of compassion, comfort all those who grieve and bring them peace. May they be blessed by stories and memories of their loved ones. In your mercy,

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

We know that you hear all our prayers, spoken and unspoken – and the ones we cannot even put into words. We lift up to you all the joys and concerns on our hearts, praying in Jesus' name the prayer that he taught us -- Our Father, ...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- * HYMN *Give Thanks, O Christian People* # 552
- * BENEDICTION
- * CHORAL BENEDICTION from *The Beatitudes* Avery & Marsh
- * POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All Our God* Karg-Elert

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