

Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday

September 15, 2024

Piano prelude: Für Elise

Beethoven

***Hymn: O servants of God**

No. 459

1. O servants of God,
your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad that wonderful name:
the name all victorious of Jesus extol,
whose reign, ever glorious,
shall rule over all,

3. Salvation to God,
who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces,
and worship the Lamb.

2. God rules from on high,
almighty to save;
yet ever is nigh, whose presence we have.
The great congregation
God's triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation
to Jesus our King.

4. Then let us adore,
give God what is right:
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
and honour and blessing,
with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing,
and infinite love.

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We come to worship as people who live in a world that is wonderful, but also fearful.

Life can be beautiful and something for which we are grateful, but life can also be difficult and unfair, and many things can go wrong we cannot anticipate or prevent.

We come to worship to find inner strength, perspective, comfort and hope.

We come to worship to cultivate patience, endurance, but also a resistance and defiance in the face of discouragement.

Even as we struggle against injustice and disillusionment, but also come to acceptance for what has come to be, we also resist the tug of bitterness by nurturing tenderness and compassion in our hearts.

Come to us, inspire us and re-fuel us as we worship you this hour, O God.

ALL: Let us worship God, together!

***Hymn: O God beyond all praising**

No. 448

1. O God beyond all praising,
we worship you today
and sing the love amazing
that songs can not repay,
for we can only wonder
at every gift you send,
at blessings without number
and mercies without end.
We lift our hearts before you
and wait up on your word;
we honour and adore you,
our great and mighty Lord.

2. Then hear, O gracious Saviour;
accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favour
may serve you as our king,
and whether our tomorrows
be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows
and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty
and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty
our sacrifice of praise.

Prayer of Approach, Confession & The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven;
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ be with you all;
And also with you

 **Blessing of Backpacks / Devices**

God, you call us to share your Good News of love, justice and peace with a world in need.
You ask us to shine our light and share our gifts as we humbly serve one another.
We ask your blessing on our digitally-integrated ministries and work, and on the many
devices we use to love and serve our neighbours in a changing world: laptops and cell
phones, computers and tablets, headphones and applications.

ALL: May they never become distractions from relationships, or idols in our hands.

We ask your blessing on the backpacks and bags that carry our work: our notebooks and pens, our lunches and devices, our written ideas, creative art projects, mathematical formulas and scientific hypotheses.

ALL: May the work they carry help us to take seed and grow and produce good fruit.

Whether we fill our days in a school, in an office, in a public building, or at home, we ask your blessing on each of us in every different place of work, education, and recreation.

ALL: May these tags and stickers we receive today remind us that you are always with us, God. May they remind us to shine our light and share in your goodness with one another. Amen.

(Children are invited to join in programming following the Blessing of Backpacks)

Choir: Welcome back!

Bruce Nasmith

1. Summer days will soon be no more.
Autumn's knocking! Open the door!
See the blazing harvest moon!
Let us sing a merry new tune!

3. Welcome precious treasures new born!
Radiant light your faces adorn!
Hear our Saviour's ageless decree:
"Let the children come unto me." (R)

Refrain

Welcome back to the church once again!
Welcome back! Let the journey begin!
Welcome back to the colours of Fall!
Welcome back one and all!

4. Life is but the night before day.
Seasons fly and vanish away!
Fond farewells to loved ones
who've gone!
In God's heav'n they shine like the sun! (R)

2. Welcome couples married this year!
May your lives be filled with good cheer!
Honour husband, cherish wife.
For His church Christ laid down His life. (R)

Scripture Readings: James 5: 1-11

Michael Nettleton

Intro: Our scripture reading this morning is taken from a letter to the early church composed by a person named James. James is the brother of Jesus and the one who became leader of the early church in Jerusalem after Pentecost.

Under colonial rule by Rome, the Jewish people were highly impoverished under a corrupt system where heavy taxation generated wealth for the few who imposed this system by force. And so, the wealthy are especially condemned by James. But how does one live under a system that is not only unfair, but seems so difficult to change? What values are to

be cultivated? As you listen to the reading, pay attention to the defiance in it, the condemnation, but also the values of patience, endurance, compassion and hope.

James 5. 1-11

Come now, you rich people, weep and wail for the miseries that are coming to you. ²Your riches have rotted, and your clothes are moth-eaten. ³Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be evidence against you, and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure for the last days. ⁴Listen! The wages of the labourers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. ⁵You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts on a day of slaughter. ⁶You have condemned and murdered the righteous and innocent one, who does not resist you.

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. Amen.

Sermon:

PATIENCE AND DEFIANCE

Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis

(Silent Meditation)

Choir: Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake
Lord for thy tender mercy's sake,
lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past
and give us grace to amend our sinful lives:
to decline from sin and incline to virtue
that we may walk in a perfect heart,
that we may walk in a perfect heart
before thee now and ever more,
that we may walk in a perfect heart,
that we may walk in a perfect heart
before thee now and ever more,
Amen

R. Farrant

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

***Hymn: How firm a foundation**

No. 685

1. How firm a foundation,
ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in
God's excellent word!
What more can God say than to you
hath been said,
to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2. 'Fear not, I am with thee;
oh be not dismayed!
For I am thy God, and
will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee
and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

3. 'When through the deep waters
I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee over flow,
for I will be with thee,
thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: Be thou my vision

trad. Irish melody

~

***We invite you to join us for coffee hour and a special welcome back lunch in our adjacent hall
after the service.
All are welcome!***

~

OUR PURPOSE AS A CHURCH:

To become the hands, feet, voice and heart of Christ for each other and in the world.

Coming Events

Sunday, September 15

Blessing of the Backpacks and welcome

Monday, September 16

Dance fitness, 10:00am

Wednesday, September 18

Finding Words for Praying Using Scripture,
7:30pm, In Person and Online, 7:30pm via Zoom

Friday, September 20

Youth Group, 7:00pm

Friday, September 20 – 22

Cairn Women's Wellness Weekend (Speak to Erin for details)

Sunday, September 22

Worship in Jazz: An Experiment

Monday, September 23

PAUSED FOR THIS WEEK Dance fitness,
10:00am

Tuesday, September 24

Literary Society Discussion, "Permanent Astonishment" by Tomson Highway, 7:30pm via Zoom

Wednesday, September 25

"Where Is God in the Face Of Human Suffering & Injustice? The Biblical Book of Job: A Study"
7:30pm

Friday, September 27

PA Day Camp (Speak to Hannah for details)
Former Mohawk Institute Residential School
Virtual Tour. 10am-11:15am. Register with us soon as spots are limited.

Sunday, September 29

Orange Shirt Sunday

Monday, September 30

Dance fitness, 10:00am

Wednesday, October 2

"Where Is God In The Face Of Human Suffering & Injustice? The Biblical Book Of Job: A Study"
7:30pm

Sunday, October 6

World Communion Sunday
Intergenerational Band Rehearsal

Monday, October 7

Dance fitness, 10:00am

Tuesday, October 8

Rimbala, 10:00am (Sign-up required with Mosaic, speak to Erin for details)



Armour Heights Presbyterian Church

105 Wilson Avenue, Toronto M5M 2Z9
Church: (416) 485-4000, estone@armourheights.org
Website: www.armourheights.org
"Discover the vitality of faith"

Ministers

Ministers-in Association

Minister Emeritus

Clerk of Session

Administrator & Manager of Community Engagement

Christian Ed. Coordinator

Music Director

The Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis, hathan1964@hotmail.com

The Rev. Rebecca Jess, rebecca@armourheights.org (On Maternity Leave)

The Rev. Dr. Carol Loudon,

The Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll & The Rev. Dr. Glynis Williams

The Rev. William Middleton

Michael Nettleton, clerk@armourheights.org

Erin Stone, estone@armourheights.org

Hannah Athanasiadis, education@armourheights.org

Bruce C. Nasmith, brucenasmith@gmail.com