

LENT 3 SUNDAY

March 7, 2021

Organ Prelude: Sarabande from French Suite No. 5

J. S. Bach

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

“As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourself with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female (there is no longer straight or gay); for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”
(Galatians 3: 26-28, with addition)

We who gather for worship live in a world where people are measured in their value and worth, their social standing and leadership potential, based on the colour of their skin, their religion and culture, their money and prestige, their sexuality and gender.

We gather to be bathed and clothed again into Christ, to receive from him grace upon grace, to be refreshed and renewed in divine love, inspired and empowered with fresh faith and hope in the possibility of greater justice in the world.

We gather to be cleansed of the ways we are conditioned to evaluate and calculate the worth and value of persons in society by all the false standards we are taught from childhood onwards.

ALL: Let us worship God, together!

Hymn: “Jesus calls us here to meet him”

No. 528

soloist Erin Stone with vocalist and organist Bruce Nasmith

1. Jesus calls us here to meet him
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God’s promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
praise the Son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.

2. Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of Life and Lord of all,
sharer of our flesh and frailness
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell the holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

3. Jesus calls us to each other:
found in him are no divides.
Race and class and sex and language:
such are barriers he derides.
Join the hands of friend and stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.

4. Jesus calls us to his table
rooted firm in time and space,
where the church in earth and heaven
finds a common meeting place.
Share the bread and wine, his body;
share the love of which we sing;
share the feast for saints and sinners
hosted by our Lord and King.

Prayer of Approach and Confession

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

Children's Theme for Church School

Special Music: As the deer

Martin Nystrom

soloist Joanne Nasmith with guitarist Jim Nasmith

Scripture Readings: Luke 8:1-3; Galatians 3:26-28; 1 Corinthians 7:1-9, 25-28, 36-40

Luke 8:1-3

Soon afterwards Jesus went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, ²as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

Galatians 3:26-28

²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 7:1-9, 25-28, 36-40

Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: 'It is well for a man not to touch a woman.' ²But because of cases of sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. ³The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; likewise the husband does not have authority over his

own body, but the wife does. ⁵Do not deprive one another except perhaps by agreement for a set time, to devote yourselves to prayer, and then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. ⁶This I say by way of concession, not of command. ⁷I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has a particular gift from God, one having one kind and another a different kind.

⁸To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is well for them to remain unmarried as I am. ⁹But if they are not practising self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion.

²⁵ Now concerning virgins, I have no command of the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. ²⁶I think that, in view of the impending crisis, it is well for you to remain as you are. ²⁷Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. ²⁸But if you marry, you do not sin, and if a virgin marries, she does not sin. Yet those who marry will experience distress in this life, and I would spare you that.

³⁶ If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly towards his fiancée, if his passions are strong, and so it has to be, let him marry as he wishes; it is no sin. Let them marry. ³⁷But if someone stands firm in his resolve, being under no necessity but having his own desire under control, and has determined in his own mind to keep her as his fiancée, he will do well. ³⁸So then, he who marries his fiancée does well; and he who refrains from marriage will do better.

³⁹ A wife is bound as long as her husband lives. But if the husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, only in the Lord. ⁴⁰But in my judgement she is more blessed if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

We are listening, O God;

Speak to us!

Sermon:

PAUL THE FEMINIST, PART 3

Dr. Harris

Special Music: We are One in the Spirit

P Scholtes, Arr. by Bruce Nasmith

soloist Erin Stone with vocalist and pianist Bruce Nasmith

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Christ has died!

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again! Hallelujah!

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer after Communion:

We thank you, O God, for feeding us in and through the bread and wine, and with the grace of your infinite love that grounds us in a freedom and empowerment to rise up to our full personhood, whatever our gender, our sexuality, whether we are married, partnered or single. Keep feeding us, O God, as we live in a world where power differentials, fear and control bind and oppress people and keep them from becoming all you have dreamed for them and for us. As followers of Jesus and as siblings of Paul, may we live by your eternal rule of love in all our relationships, at work, among family and within the various communities we are a part of. And may this community of faith we call Armour Heights, continue to shine your light of freedom, fulfilment, and inclusion in every way we learn and grow so to do; Amen.

Hymn: "Dear Christ, uplifted from the earth"

No. 702

soloist Elias Theocharidis with organist Bruce Nasmith

1. Dear Christ, uplifted from the earth,
your arms stretched out above
through every culture, every birth,
to draw an answering love.

3. Where age and gender,
class and race, divide us to our shame,
you see a person and a face,
a neighbour with a name.

2. Still east and west your love extends,
and always, near and far,
you call and claim us as your friends
and love us as we are.

4. May we, accepted as we are,
yet called in grace to grow,
reach out to others, near and far,
your healing love to show.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: Gigue from French Suite No. 5

J. S. Bach

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