

LENT 4 SUNDAY

March 14, 2021

Organ Prelude: God so loved the world

John Stainer

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

“For God so loved the world that God gave God’s only son, so that everyone who believes in God may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3: 16-17)

We gather for worship because our hearts have been stirred by a hunger, a desire, a Spirit who is love. We are not afraid, our hearts are open and ready to receive and to feed.

We gather for worship because we want to engage our fear with faith, our despair with hope our anxiety with trust and our emptiness with a search for new meaning.

We gather for worship because we want to grow, we want to flourish, and we want to bless the world with the kind of love moving through us that overflows outwards.

Can worship make any of this possible in and through us? We pray for a new beginning, we pray for renewal, we pray for awakening to what’s possible, we pray for what has yet to be.

Come, Holy Spirit, come and ignite us with the flame of love!

Hymn: “O Holy Spirit, by whose breath!”

No. 402

soloist Shaun Alphonso with organist Bruce Nasmith

1. O Holy Spirit, by whose breath,
life rises vibrant out of death
come to create, renew, inspire;
come, kindle in our hearts your fire.

2. You are the seeker's sure resource,
of burning love the living source,
protector in the midst of strife,
the giver and the Lord of life.

3. In you God's energy is shown,
to us your varied gifts made known.
Teach us to speak; teach us to hear;
yours is the tongue and yours the ear.

4. Flood our dull senses
with your light;
in mutual love our hearts unite.
Your power the whole creation fills;
confirm our weak, uncertain wills.

5. From inner strife grant us release;
turn nations to the ways of peace.
To fuller life your people bring
that as one body we may sing;

Praise to the Father,
Christ, his Word,
and to the Spirit: God the Lord.
Amen.

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.

Children's Theme for Church School

Special Music: "I Hear Thy Voice"

soloist Erin Stone with pianist Bruce Nasmith

M. F. Ham and E. Lang

Scripture Reading: John 3. 1-17

³Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' ³Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' ⁴Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' ⁵Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' ⁹Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ ‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ ‘For God so loved the world that God gave God’s only Son, so that everyone who believes in God may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

We are listening, O God;
Speak to us!

Sermon: PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION Dr. Harris

Special Music: “Come unto Him” from Messiah G. F. Handel, arr. B. Nasmith
soloists Anna Bateman and Erin Stone with pianist Bruce Nasmith

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

Hymn: “Spirit, Spirit of gentleness” No. 399
soloists Anna Bateman and Chris Tanaka-Mann with pianist Bruce Nasmith

Refrain:

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness
calling and free.**

**Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
wind, Wind on the sea.**

2. You swept through the desert,
you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people
with a law and a land,
and when they were blinded
with their idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets
to open their eyes. **(Refrain)**

1. You moved on the waters;
you called to the deep;
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep,
and over the aeons
you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers
and rise on your wings. **(Refrain)**

3. You sang in a stable;
you cried from a hill;
then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still,
and down in the city
you called once again,
when you blew through your people
on the rush of the wind. **(Refrain)**

4. You call from tomorrow;
you break ancient schemes;
from the bondage of sorrow
the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions,
our men clear their eyes;
with bold new decisions
your people arise. **(Refrain)**

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: Gavotte from French Suite no. 5

J. S. Bach

Ministers

Ministers-in Association

Minister Emeritus

Clerk of Session

Administrator & Manager of Community Engagement

Music Director

Parish Nurse Assistant

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

The Rev. Rebecca Jess, rebecca@armourheights.org

The Rev. Dr. Carol Loudon, The Rev. Deb Stanbury

The Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll & The Rev. Rodger Talbot

The Rev. William Middleton

Michael Nettleton, clerk@armourheights.org

Erin Stone, estone@armourheights.org

Bruce C. Nasmith, brucenasmith@gmail.com

Barbara Thomas



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"