

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS & DEVICES SUNDAY

September 19, 2021

Organ Prelude: Siciliano

Domenico Scarlatti

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

"For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands" (Isaiah 55:12-13).

We come to worship to hear God's word, the seeds of God's purpose, planted in our ears and our hearts, transforming our understanding and sending us out in joy.

We gather together to exercise our ability to be transformed through worship, song, and prayer. Where we may be tempted to see only a future that is bleak, in worship we hear God's words of comfort and hope.

We come to worship to be the church. We are not alone, but one among many. The church is God's love lived out in community. We will go out in joy!

ALL: Let us worship God together!

Hymn: Come know my joy

No. 788

1. "Come, know my joy," the Maker says
and pours out works of power
that sear the sense, defy the mind
and fill the soul with awe,
and we with open mouth receive
God's gifts with infant need,
and, sight unfocussed, scarce perceive
Love's presence as we feed.

2. The feast we join is long begun;
God bids us welcome here
to name and use the sovereign gifts
within our human care.
With God's own joy some seem to soar,
a fierce and holy flame;
some gifts are thorns we scarce endure
to touch, or face, or name.

3. "Come, seek my face," the Giver says,
"with heart and soul and strength;
let fear give way to love; come step
upon the waves of faith."

Dear Giver, Gift, we seek your face:
you share our thorn, our scar.
We learn your joy when by your grace
we share the gift we are.

4. "Come, learn of me," the Servant says
and multiplies a feast
of loaves and fish, of bread and wine,
transforming every guest.

"Come," says the Host, "from west and
east bring gifts to share - come, eat! -
none lost or wasted when God's feast
of joy will be complete."

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 the Backpacks & Devices

Special Music: "Come unto Him" from Messiah by G. F. Handel duet Arr. by B. Nasmith
soloists Anna Bateman and Erin Stone

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 55:10-13, Romans 5:1-5

Isaiah 55:10-13

10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

12 For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Romans 5:1-5

5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

We are listening, O God;

Speak to us!

Sermon:

GO OUT IN JOY

Rev. Rebecca

Special Music: "Stay with me"

by Jerome Moross and Carolyn Leigh

soloist Bruce Dow

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

Hymn: Called as partners in Christ's service

No. 587

1. Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment,
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring
to fulfil God's chosen end.

2. Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering,
reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together,
gracious gifts from God untold.

3. Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action,
make us colleagues, free and fair.

4. So God grant us for tomorrow
ways to order human life
that surround each person's
sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving
hope and confidence and peace.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: Gigue from French suite no. 5

J. S. Bach

Thank you to Rev. Rebecca & Dr. Harris, our musicians, Bruce Nasmith, Anna Bateman, Erin Stone, Elias Theocharidis, and Bruce Dow, and Kome Abel for operating the sanctuary camera.

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

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"Discover the vitality of faith"