

EASTER 6 SUNDAY

May 22, 2022

Organ Prelude: Siciliano

Domenico Scarlatti

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We gather for worship, O God, as those who are seeking greater freedom in our lives.

We want freedom from the weight of mental and physical health challenges, freedom from worries in our relationships, work, finances, and other ways we are weighed down because we care.

We also gather for worship, O God, as those who are seeking to find our path, and even our destiny, as your children in spirit and in truth.

We seek out authenticity of spirit, genuineness of heart, peace of soul and a fulfillment of our created humanity.

Visit us as we worship you, O God. Reveal to us how our freedom and destiny may come together in our lives.

Nourish us with fresh faith, hope and love as we seek out your call upon us in this time of our lives.

ALL: Let us worship God, together!

***Hymn: Sing praise to God on mountain tops**

No. 322

**1. Sing praise to God on mountain tops
and in earth's lowest places,
from blue lagoon to polar waste,
from ocean to oasis.
No random rock produced this world,
but God's own will and wonder;
thus hills rejoice and valleys sing
and clouds concur with thunder.**

**2. Sing praise to God where grasses grow
and flowers display their beauty,
where nature weaves her myriad web
through love as much as duty.
The seasons in their cycle speak
of earth's complete provision.
Let nothing mock inherent good
nor treat it with derision.**

**3. Sing praise to God where fishes swim
and birds fly in formation,
where animals of every kind
diversify creation.**

**All life that finds its home on earth
is meant to be respected;
let nothing threaten, for base ends,
what God through grace perfected.**

**4. Sing praise to God where humankind
its majesty embraces,
where different races, creeds and
tongues distinguish different faces.
God's image in each child of earth
shall never pale or perish;
so treat with love each human soul
and thus God's goodness cherish.**

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Peace of Christ be with you all;

And also with you.

Children's Theme for Church School

Special Music: Song of Solomon

Madrigal setting by Bruce Nasmith

Scripture Reading: Acts 9: 1-19

Scripture reader, Kim Stanbury

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' ⁵He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' ⁷The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' ¹¹The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At

this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.’ ¹³But Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.’ ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.’ ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized. Amen.

We are listening, O God;
Speak to us!

Sermon:

FREEDOM AND DESTINY

Dr. Harris

Special Music: I'll walk with God

words by P. F. Webster: music by N. Brodsky

Soloist Erin Stone

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

***Hymn: Will you come and follow me**

No. 634

**1. Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?**

**Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?**

**Will you let my love be shown;
will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?**

**2. Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?**

**Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?**

**Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?**

**3. Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?**

**Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?**

**Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?**

**4. Will you love the "you" you hide
if I but call your name?**

**Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?**

**Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?
when you but call my name.**

5. Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Benediction

***Threefold Amen**

Organ Postlude: Fugue on "Sing praise to God on mountaintops"

B. Nasmith

**Remain seated if you are more comfortable*