

Membership / Baptism Sunday

September 8, 2024

Piano prelude: Welcome Back!

Bruce Nasmith

***Hymn: Who made the earth and the heavens**

No. 339

1. Who made the earth and the heaven?

Mighty hands!

Who made the man and the woman?

Awesome hands!

Who made the tree and the garden?

Loving hands!

Who's got the world in mighty hands?

4. Who sent the storm and the thunder?

Mighty hands!

Who sent the flood and the fire? Awesome hands!

Who sent the dove and the rainbow?

Loving hands!

Who's got the world in mighty hands?

2. Who made the stars and the children?

Mighty hands!

Who made the stream and the salmon?

Awesome hands!

Who made the lamb and the lion? Loving hands!

Who's got the world in mighty hands?

5. Who loves all our siblings? Mighty hands!

Who sent the Lamb and the Lion?

Awesome hands!

Who makes a new earth and heaven? Loving hands!

Who's got the world in mighty hands?

3. Who made the swan and the swallow?

Mighty hands!

Who made the wind and the willow?

Awesome hands!

Who made today and tomorrow? Loving hands!

Who's got the world in mighty hands?.

6. You've got the whole world – Mighty hands!

You've got the whole world – Awesome hands!

You've got the whole world – Loving hands!

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We have come to worship to find a place and space where we can listen for God.

We have come to worship as those who must contend with lots of noise in our lives.

There are voices that distract us, frustrate us, discourage us, scare us, exhaust us, confuse us and won't allow us to stop and think and pray for clarity, direction, courage and resolve.

We come to find the silence within to hear God speak to us, to discern our way in our lives in this time we are living them.

Speak to us, O God, clear the noise from our minds and hearts and open us to the silence we need so we can hear what you have to tell us.

ALL: Let us worship God, together!

***Hymn: God of the sparrow, God of the whale**

No. 307

1. God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe How does
the creature say Praise

4. God of the hungry God of the sick God
of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care How does
the creature say Life

2. God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe How does
the creature cry Save

5. God of the neighbour God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love How does
the creature say Peace

3. God of the rainbow God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace How
does the creature say Thanks

6. God of the ages God near at hand God
of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy How do your
children say Home

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.

Welcoming new Members by Baptism & Profession of Faith:

Zahra Rekee (Sefede)

Hana Pour Abbasi

Fatemeh Dehghan (Mahin)

Jennifer Orbanic

Mohammad Sadegh Pour Abbasi

Janet Lam

Shirin Haghayegh

Questions to new members and baptizands:

1) With the enabling of God's grace, do you commit yourself to personal growth in renouncing what is wrong and embracing what is right in your life and in the world?

I do.

2) With the enabling of God's grace, do you commit yourself to becoming a closer follower of Jesus Christ in his ongoing ministry of compassion and healing in the world by the way you care for all life around you?

I do.

3) With the enabling of God's grace, do you commit yourself to the way of forgiveness with an open heart?

I do.

4) With the enabling of God's grace, do you commit yourself to pursuing justice and truth in a spirit of openness to reconciliation rather than retaliation?

I do.

5) With the enabling of God's grace, do you commit yourself to growing spiritually as a part of this congregation, its worship, fellowship and service, offering yourself and your substance, as you are able?

I do.

Question to Congregation:

Do you, on behalf of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Sefede, Mahin, Mohammad, Shirin, Hana, Jennifer, and Janet by word and deed, with love and in prayer, encouraging them to follow the way of Christ in the world?

We do.

**A CHRISTIAN CREED BASED ON
THE APOSTLES' CREED
FROM: IONA, SCOTLAND
Modified for AHPC**

We Believe in God above us,
Maker and sustainer of all that lives,
Of sun, moon and stars,
Of water, air, and earth,
Of male and female,
All genders, colours and cultures.

We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
Born of a woman's womb, servant of the poor.
He was tortured and nailed to a cross.
He bore the suffering of others, but died himself forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,
And his reign will come on earth.

We believe in God within us,
The Holy Spirit of transforming flame,
Life-Giving breath of the church,
Energy of healing, justice and forgiveness,
Source of resurrection and life everlasting.
Amen.

(Children are invited to join in programming following the Baptism)

Choir: Dona nobis pacem

W. A. Mozart

Grant us peace
Dona nobis pacem, pacem.
Dona nobis pacem.
Dona nobis pacem, pacem.
Dona nobis pacem.

Scripture Readings: 1 Kings 19: 1-16

Wanda Fischer

Introduction: In a contest of power, the great prophet Elijah stands against all the false prophets beholden to the wicked King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. Even though Elijah wins the contest and the false prophets are killed, Elijah's own life is now threatened by King and Queen. While Elijah has been courageous in his faith and loyalty before God, he finally crumbles and his courage and faith fail him. Listen to what happens:

¹9Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how all her false prophets had been killed. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.' ³Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

⁴ But Elijah himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' ⁵Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.'

⁶He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' ⁸He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. ⁹At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' ¹⁰He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

¹¹ He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an

earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' ¹⁴He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat as prophet in your place. Amen.

Sermon:

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis

(Silent Meditation)

Duet: The sound of silence

Paul Simon

Soloists Bruce Nasmith & Erin Stone

Hello darkness, my old friend
I've come to talk with you again
Because a vision softly creeping
Left its seeds while I was sleeping
And the vision that was planted in my brain
Still remains
Within the sound of silence

In restless dreams, I walked alone
Narrow streets of cobblestone
'Neath the halo of a streetlamp
I turned my collar to the cold and damp
When my eyes were stabbed by the flash of a neon light
That split the night
And touched the sound of silence

And in the naked light, I saw
Ten thousand people, maybe more
People talking without speaking
People hearing without listening
People writing songs that voices never shared
And no one dared
Disturb the sound of silence

"Fools" said I, "You do not know
Silence like a cancer grows
Hear my words that I might teach you
Take my arms that I might reach you"
But my words, like silent raindrops fell
And echoed in the wells of silence

And the people bowed and prayed
To the neon god they made
And the sign flashed out its warning
In the words that it was forming
Then the sign said, "The words on the prophets are written on the subway walls
In tenement halls"
And whispered in the sound of silence

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

***Hymn: Dear Father, Lord of humankind**

No. 451

1. Dear Father, Lord of humankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
reclothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

4. With that deep hush subduing all
our words and works that drown
the tender whisper of thy call, a
noiseless let thy blessing fall
as fell thy manna down.

2. In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

5. Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

3. O sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love.

6. Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake,
wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: Time to say goodbye Andrea Bocelli

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***We invite you to join us for coffee hour and some light refreshments in our adjacent hall after the service.
All are welcome!***

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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 8

Sacrament of Holy Baptism Sunday

Monday, September 9

Dance fitness, 10:00am

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

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)

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

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

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