

Orange Shirt Sunday

September 29, 2024

Piano prelude: We are one in the Spirit

arr. B. Nasmith

***Hymn: Who's goin' to tell the story**

No. 761

1. Who's goin' to tell the story?

You and I!

Tell of the Lord's great glory?

You and I!

Who's goin' to let the whole world know?

Help his disciples grow

and multiply?

You and I!

2. Who's goin' to bring the kingdom?

You and I!

Who's goin' to spread the gospel?

You and I!

Who's goin' to do the kindly deed?

Comfort the one in need

and help supply?

You and I!

3. Jesus came to bring us good news,
sent to earth by God above!

And the good news that he brought us
is the word of love!

4. Who's goin' to feed the hungry?

You and I!

Care for the sick and lonely?

You and I!

Who's goin' to let the whole world see
people can live in harmony?

Let's try!

You and I!

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We come to worship as people who enjoy life but also suffer various kinds of losses in our lives.

It's hard to get past the losses when we are sad, bitter or angry and refuse to imagine anything else but restoration of what we have lost can satisfy or fulfill.

And yet, life is all about change and change that can be permanent whether we like it or not, choose it or not.

We are here to open our hearts to a God who not only restores us in life, but can also resurrect new life in and through us past what is lost and forever changed.

ALL: Let us worship God together!

***Hymn: With the Lord as my guide**

No. 574

1. With the Lord as my guide
I will walk through the desert,
rest by the water, run in the wind.
With the Lord by my side
I will stand on the mountain,
drink from the fountain of love deep
within.

2. With the Lord as my guide
I will see all the talents,
accept the balance of who I am.
With the Lord by my side
say yes to the calling,
fear not the falling, trust in God's plan.

3. With the Lord as my guide
I will work with my sister,
care for my brother, bend with their pain.
With the Lord by my side
we will rise up together,
strengthen each other, courage regain.

4. With the Lord as my guide
I will rise in the morning,
praise for the dawning beauty of day.
With the Lord by my side
I will sing, sing forever,
always a lover, seeking God's way.

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 are invited to join in programming following the Passing of the Peace)

Choir: I will carry you
*Hold my hand, I will walk with you,
Step by step, right beside you,
When the road is dark, I will be your light,
When the path is rough, I will be your guide,
And when you are too weak to carry on,
I will carry you,
I will carry you*

Wendy Porter

*and in the valley of the shadows,
When death is crouching near,
Deep within the stillness are words your heart can hear.*

*Hold my hand, I will walk with you,
Step by step, right beside you,
When the road is dark, I will be your light,
When the path is rough, I will be your guide,
And when you are too weak to carry on,
I will carry you*

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 29: 1-14

Pam McCarroll

INTRO: Our scripture reading is taken from the book of Jeremiah the prophet, chapter 29, verses 1-14. After repeated threats and a final attack, the Babylonian colonists invade the land of the Hebrews. Many who aren't killed are taken to serve their new masters in a foreign land. The loss is devastating and overwhelming. How do they move past that and imagine life going forward? Jeremiah the Prophet offers a message of hope, but it's not hope of restoration. It's something else. Listen?

Jeremiah 29: 1-14

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

²This was after King Jeconiah, and the queen mother, the court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem. ³The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom King Zedekiah of Judah sent to Babylon to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

It said: ⁴Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. ⁸For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, ⁹for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord.

10 For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfil to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. 12Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. 13When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, 14I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. Amen.

Sermon:

RESTORATION OR RESURRECTION

Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis

(Silent Meditation)

Duet: One Tin Soldier *from the movie Billy Jack*

D. Lambert &

B. Potter

Soloists Erin Stone and Bruce Nasmith

*Listen, children, to a story
That was written long ago
'Bout a kingdom on a mountain
And the valley-folk below
On the mountain was a treasure
Buried deep beneath the stone
And the valley-people swore
They'd have it for their very own
Go ahead and hate your neighbor
Go ahead and cheat a friend
Do it in the name of heaven
You can justify it in the end
There won't be any trumpets blowing
Come the judgment day
On the bloody morning after
One tin soldier rides away
So the people of the valley
Sent a message up the hill
Asking for the buried treasure
Tons of gold for which they'd kill
It came an answer from the mountain
With our brothers we will share
All the secrets of our mountain
All the riches buried there*

*Go ahead and hate your neighbor
Go ahead and cheat a friend
Do it in the name of heaven
You can justify it in the end
There won't be any trumpets blowing
Come the judgment day
On the bloody morning after
One tin soldier rides away
Now the valley cried with anger
"Mount your horses! Draw your sword!"
And they killed the mountain-people
So they won their just reward
Now they stood beside the treasure
On the mountain, dark and red
Turned the stone and looked beneath it
"Peace on Earth" was all it said
Go ahead and hate your neighbor
Go ahead and cheat a friend
Do it in the name of heaven
You can justify it in the end
There won't be any trumpets blowing
Come the judgment day
On the bloody morning after
One tin soldier rides away*

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

***Hymn: We cannot own the sunlit sky**

No. 717

1. We cannot own the sunlit sky,
the moon, the wildflowers growing,
for we are part of all that is within life's
river flowing.

With open hands receive and share the
gifts of God's creation, that all may have
abundant life in every earthly nation.

2. When bodies shiver in the night,
and, weary, wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears,
and war horns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake, to join in
common labour,
that all may have abundant life
in oneness with their neighbour.

3. God calls humanity to join as partners in
creating
a future free from want or fear, life's
goodness celebrating.
That new world beckons from afar,
invites our shared endeavour,
that all may have abundant life and peace
endure forever.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: O day of peace that dimly shines
words: C. Daw; music: C. H. H. Parry

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We invite you to join us for coffee hour and 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.

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

Erin Stone, estone@armourheights.org

Hannah Athanasiadis, education@armourheights.org

Bruce C. Nasmith, brucenasmith@gmail.com

Coming Events

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

Wednesday, October 9

"Where Is God In The Face Of Human Suffering & Injustice? The Biblical Book Of Job: A Study" 7:30pm

Sunday, October 13

Thanksgiving Sunday
Intergenerational Band Rehearsal

Monday, October 14

Dance fitness, 10:00am

Wednesday, October 16

"Where Is God in the Face Of Human Suffering & Injustice? The Biblical Book of Job: A Study" 7:30pm

Friday, October 18

Dinner and Games Night at AHPC! See poster for details

Sunday, October 20

EHM Walk to End Homelessness, 2:00pm after worship (speak to Erin for details)

Sunday, October 27

Reformation Sunday
Join us following worship for lunch and a presentation from our refugee sponsorship family - the Ahmadis. A sharing of their story out of Afghanistan

Monday, October 28

Dance Fitness, 10:00am

Tuesday, October 29

Literary Society, "Dazzle Patterns" by Alison Watt, 7:30pm In Person and Online



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"Discover the vitality of faith"