

Anniversary Sunday

November 17, 2024

Melrose Park Presbyterian Church, 1938
Armour Heights Presbyterian Church, 1951
Amalgamation, 1998

Piano Prelude: Clair de lune

Debussy

***Hymn: We are God's people**

No. 472

1. We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
born of the Spirit, established by the word;
our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in him we stand:
oh let us live transparently,
and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

2. We are God's loved ones, the bride of Christ our Lord,
for we have known it, the love of God outpoured;
now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given:
oh let us share each joy and care
and live with a zeal that pleases heaven.

3. We are the Body of which the Lord is head,
called to obey him, now risen from the dead;
he wills us be a family, diverse yet truly one:
oh let us freely give our gifts,
and so shall God's work on earth be done.

4. We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;
alone, we die, for on its own each ember loses fire:

yet joined in one the flame burns on
to give warmth and light, and to inspire.

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We gather for worship in person and online as those who have been connected to this community of faith for a long time, and those who are newer.

We gather for worship as those who are seeking more, those who have found spiritual treasure and connection here, and those who have been found ever more deeply by a love we name: God.

We gather for worship to give thanks for those who have come before us providing the resources and inspiration for who we are and what we enjoy today, and we come in search of the faith, hope and love we will need to contribute to this community so it can flourish into what it will continue to become into tomorrow and beyond.

ALL: Let us worship God, together!

***Hymn: God is here! as we your people meet**

No. 799

1. God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

2. Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font and pulpit,
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

3. Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here, as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

4. Sovereign God of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you; we believe.

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: Armour Heights

Jim Nasmith

*1. We gather together united in worship,
Raising our voices to sing and to pray,
We share in the journey, we care for each other,
Loving and growing we reach out in faith*

Refrain:

*Give us strength Lord, Give us courage,
Help us see your vision flourish,
Fill our hearts with inspiration,
Hear us as we humbly pray.*

*2. The children are laughing, the reverend is guiding,
Turning our thoughts to God's wonderful way
The organ is playing, the choir is singing,
Lifting our hearts to a much better place
[Refrain]*

*3. We gather to honor our Savior,
Celebrate triumphs, acknowledge our sin,*

*United in purpose we build for the future
Guided by love let the service begin.
[Refrain]*

Scripture Readings: 1 John 4: 7-13, 16, 18-21

Wanda Fischer

INTRO: Our scripture reading this morning is taken from the first letter of John, chapter 4 and selected verses. Is God a supreme intelligence or a supreme love? What's the difference? Here's a clue: It's all about relationships – God, us and the world. Listen:

1 John 4. 7-13,16,18-21:

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent God's only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent God's own self through the Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because God has given us of God's Spirit. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because God first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment

we have from God is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. Amen.

We are listening, O God; **Speak to us!**

Sermon: INTELLIGENCE, CREATIVITY, IMAGINATION & LOVE

Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis

(Silent Meditation)

Solo: How Beautiful are the Feet

from Messiah by G.F. Handel

Soloist Anna Bateman

*How beautiful are the feet
Of them that preach
The gospel of peace
How beautiful are the feet
How beautiful are the feet
Of them that preach
The gospel of peace
How beautiful are the feet
Of them that preach
The gospel of peace
And bring glad tidings
And bring glad tidings
Glad tidings of good things
And bring glad tidings
Glad tidings of good things
And bring glad tidings
Glad tidings of good things
Glad tidings of good things*

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

***Hymn: God of grace and God of glory**

No. 490

1. God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown the ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us, scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to love and
praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

3. Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4. Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces, pledged to set all captives free.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not them nor thee, that we fail not them nor thee!

5. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

Benediction

***Threefold Amen**

Organ Postlude: Toccata in C

Bruce Nasmith

**Remain seated if you are more comfortable*

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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.



Ministers

The Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis, hathan1964@hotmail.com
The Rev. Rebecca Jess, rebecca@armourheights.org (On Maternity Leave)

Ministers-in

The Rev. Dr. Carol Loudon,

Association

The Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll & The Rev. Dr. Glynis Williams

Minister Emeritus

The Rev. William Middleton

Clerk of Session

Michael Nettleton, clerk@armourheights.org

Administrator & Manager of Community

Erin Stone,

Engagement

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Christian Ed.

Hannah Athanasiadis, education@armourheights.org

Coordinator

Music Director

Bruce C. Nasmith, brucenasmith@gmail.com

Coming Events

Sunday, November 17

Anniversary Sunday
Intergenerational Band Rehearsal

Monday, November 18

Dance fitness, 10:00am

Friday, November 22

The Holiday Festive Showcase
hosted by Mosaic, 6-9pm

Sunday, November 24

Reign of Christ Sunday /
Intergenerational Worship with
special guest: Guy Smagge, Executive
Director of PWS&D (Presbyterian
World Service & Development)

Monday, November 25

Dance fitness, 10:00am

Tuesday, November 26

Literary Society Discussion, "Saints
and Villains" by Denise Giardina,
7:30pm via zoom

Wednesday, November 27

Practicing Healing Prayer, 7:30pm in
person and online

Friday, November 29

Youth Group, 7pm-9pm

Saturday, November 30

Great Armour Heights Baking Club:
Christmas Cookie Baking, 1pm

Sunday, December 1

Advent 1 / Holy Communion
Congregation Meeting to discuss and
approve "sound dampening" project
for our hall (Scott Duncan Hall)

Wednesday, December 4

How can the real Christmas story in
the Bible inspire how you can
celebrate Christmas this year?,
7:30pm in person and online



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"Discover the vitality of faith"