**Order for Worship for 12th Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 23, 2020**

**Prelude** Prelude in C Minor, J.S. Bach *Amy Watt*

**Words of Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

When we look to the rock from which we were cut,

and to the quarry from which we were dug,we see our ancestors Abraham and Sarah,who were alone until God blessed them and made them many!**When we look to the cornerstone of the church,**

**we see Christ, the Son of the living God. Beginning with Peter, God has made us into living stones. God’s house will stand forever!**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Hymn # 14** “For the Beauty of the Earth” *Pierpont/Kocher 19th C.*

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;  
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Lord, we grow hardhearted, seeing each other as competing for scarce resources rather than one human family created and cared for by you, our God of infinite abundance. We conform easily to the ways of the world, striving endlessly for those things that do not satisfy, practicing greed and participating in systems that hurt people and creation. You call us to another way, the way of Christ Jesus our Lord, a way of compassion and justice, love and service. You offer us a life of joy and grace, mercy and redemption, readily available to us when we repent and seek you and your righteousness first. We turn to you now, forgive and free us, we pray. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Readings from Holy Scripture** Isaiah 51:1-6 and Matthew 16:13-20

**Sermon** “Rocks, Simon Peter, and Our Cornerstone”

**Affirmation of Faith** *from “A Brief Statement of Faith,” PC(USA)*

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:**

**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed**

**and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead,**

**vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**Hymn # 475** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” *Robert Robinson, 1758*

Come thou fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God’s unchanging love.

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Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy grace, now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

**Offering of Our Gifts**

Invitation

Offertory “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout!” *Dylan Watt/Amy Watt*

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

**Receive these gifts, gracious God. Bless them and distribute them in ways that reveal to the world your loving kindness and steadfast love. In a season of great upheaval and much uncertainty, may the giving of our resources and the sharing of our lives bring hope, comfort and relief to those most in need of good news. In Christ’s strong name we pray. Amen.**

**Hymn # 726** “Will You Come and Follow Me” *Bell and Maule, 1987*

“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?”

“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?”

“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?”

“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?”

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 grown in you and you in me.

**Charge and Blessing**

Jesus asks each of us: Who do you say that I am? Answer his question, this day and all your days, in every word you speak, with every action you perform.

May God who restores, Christ who calls, and the Spirit who empowers bless you and increase your joy and gladness, now and always. Amen.

**Postlude** “For the Beauty of the Earth” *Sandy Phillips, Piano*

*Amy Watt, Organ*

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*Today’s Call to Worship and Charge and Blessing are from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Vol. 2. The Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon, and Prayer for Illumination were written by the Rev. Jill Duffield, Editor of the Presbyterian Outlook, for this Sunday.*

*Notes on today’s hymns from Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal (2013):*

*“For the Beauty of the Earth” originally emphasized thanksgiving for the Lord’s Supper. In the course of many revisions, the emphasis of the text shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.*

*Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” is full of biblical terms like “Ebenezer” (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for “a stone of help” set up to give thanks for God’s assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.*

*The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn, “Will You Come and Follow Me,” are understood to be the voice of Christ, with the fifth stanza reflecting the individual’s response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune by John Bell and Graham Maule in 1987, the text was written to make the occasion of a youth volunteer’s time of ministry.*