**Order for Worship for 13th Sunday after Pentecost**

 **August 30, 2020**

**Prelude** “Majestic Praise” Excerpts *Sandy Philips/Amy Watt*

**Words of Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

Join the journey, and follow Jesus.

**The way is not easy, but it is worth it.**

Love one another, and serve one another,

**because those who lose their lives for Christ will find it.**

**Seek the Lord and live, seek Christ and know love.**

**Come, worship God, and know the Spirit is alive in you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Hymn # 394** “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” *7th C text/H Purcell 1680*

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help forever, and her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;

come, with all your loving kindness; hear your people as we pray,

and your fullest benediction shed within its walls today.

Here bestow on all your servants what they ask of you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of mercy, we confess that, like the disciples, we set our minds not on divine things but on human things. Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need. coubting your loving purposes, we shrink from living as your followers. Doubting your loving plan, we become stumbling blocks in your creation. Forgive us that we may gain new life in you, for it is in Jesus’ forgiving name we pray. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Readings from Holy Scripture**  Exodus 2:23-25, 3:1-15

 Matthew 16:21-28

**Sermon**

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

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.**

**In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

**Hymn # 833** “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go” *Matheson/Peace 1884*

O Love that wilt not let me go,

I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,

that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,

I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

**Prayers of the People**

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Offering of Our Gifts**

Invitation

Offertory “Waltz in A-Flat Major”- Brahms  *Chris & Amy Clark*

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

**Holy God of holy ground,like Moses, we question our fitness to serve heaven’s purposes on earth. Overcome our qualms with the assurance of your presence; bless these offerings that, through them, we may do your will; in the name of the triune One. Amen.**

**Hymn # 69** “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

*Refrain:*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain.

I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

**Charge and Blessing**

**Postlude** “Prelude in D-Flat Major” – J.S. Bach *Amy Watt*

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*Participating in today’s service are Pamela Esbrandt Wynne, Debra Nixon, Danielle Allison, Jeffrey Allison, Sandy Philips, and Chris and Melissa Clark. Thank you, thank you!*

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

*Although the ancient text of “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation: has often been used at church dedications, the first stanza clearly refers to the people of God and the second to the place where they meet. The stately and soaring tune is aptly named for the church where the composer served as organist and is buried.*

*“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go” --This intense hymn of commitment to God, (addressed as Love, Light, and Joy) closes with an invocation of the ultimate testimony to those attributes (the Cross). The composer, a Scotsman, named this specially composed tune for the 11th century patroness of Scotland.*

*The stanzas of “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky” need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God’s call. This becomes clearer if a leader or small group sings the stanzas, with the congregation joining on the refrain.*

*Notes about today’s artwork:*

***The Burning Bush*** *is by Paul Koli, artist and printmaker, born in 1945, from Mubai, India.*