

Date: February 25, 2018

GATHERING

Prelude

Melody

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Greeting

God is good.
All the time.
And all the time.
God is good.

Call To Worship

Come, friends, and hear once again what God has done for us.

God has been faithful through our days.

We come at different ages and stages, different generations,

and we serve and worship together.

God remembers all of us, from the baby entering the world to the people living in their twilight years.

God keeps God's promises, no matter how young, no matter how old we may be.

Come and open your hearts to the God who will love and care for you through your entire life.

We come to worship God.

*Hymn #760 *Bring Many Names*

1. Bring many names,
beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory,
living, loving God.
Hail and Hosanna!
Bring many names!

2. Strong mother God,
working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation
genius at play:
Hail and Hosanna,
strong mother God!

3. Warm father God,
hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving
till we're reconciled:
Hail and Hosanna,
warm father God!

4. Old, aching God,
gray with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises,
wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna,
old, aching God!

5. Young, growing God,
eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice,
giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna,
young, growing God!

6. Great, living God,
never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing,
everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna,
great, living God!

***Call to Confession**

***Confession of Sin**

God, you know each of us by name. The names we were given at birth, the names we are called by others, and the names we call ourselves. Sometimes, we use names as a way to make quick judgments about strangers. We use names as a way to validate our prejudices before we enter into relationship with another of your children. God, we call each other names to bully, destroy, or fail to build one another up. We find ways to break down one another with the names we call each other. When names are unkindly hurled at us, we tell the lie that “sticks and stones can break my bones but names will never hurt me” as we weep in sorrow. Sometimes, God, we call ourselves by these names. In our minds, we discount who you have created us to be and believe the worst about ourselves. Holy one, help us. Help us to believe the truth about ourselves when we are called names. Guide us away from snap judgments and prejudices towards real relationships. Give us words that heal, build up, create, empower, and nurture one another. Remind us that just as you gave Sarai and Abram new names, you give each of us a new name – Forgiven. May we live into that name through the forgiveness of your son Jesus Christ.

*** Silent Prayer**

*** Response #578 *Lord, Have Mercy***

**1. O Lord, have mercy;
O Lord, have mercy;
O Lord, have mercy,
have mercy on us.**

**2. O Christ, have mercy;
O Christ, have mercy;
O Christ, have mercy,
have mercy on us.**

***Words of Grace**

In Jesus Christ, claim the truth of the gospel and your new name – Forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

***The Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.
A sign of peace is exchanged.

***Response: Hymn #547 *Go, My Children, With My Blessing* - verse 2**

**Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

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The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Response (see insert)

Psalm 22

Owen Alstott

Congregational Response: **I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.**

Children's Chat

Rita Boyer, Certified Educator

Second reading: Romans 4:13-25

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The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

Sermon

What's In A Name?

Rev. Dr. Rick Boyer

***Hymn #51 To Abraham and Sarah**

1. To Abraham and Sarah the call of God was clear:

“Go forth and I will show you a country rich and fair.

**You need not fear the journey, for I have pledged my word
that you shall be my people and I will be your God.”**

**2. From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race,
dependent for their journey on God's abundant grace;
and in their heart was written by God this saving word,
“That you shall be my people and I will be your God.”**

**3. We of this generation on whom God's hand is laid
can journey to the future secure and unafraid,
rejoicing in God's goodness and trusting in this word,
“That you shall be my people and I will be your God.”**

***Affirmation of Faith – Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. and in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;**

**he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into
heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall
come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People - Guided Meditation

Offering

Musical Offering

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
Chancel Choir

arr. Howard Helvey

*Praise God (Hymn #608)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.

*Prayer of Dedication and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

Sending the Church into Mission

The Mission of Prospect Church

To be a family in Christ reaching out to all with love, prayer, and service. Through worship, education, mission, and fellowship, we experience God's love, forgiveness, grace, and call.

*Hymn #853 We Are Marching in the Light of God

Zulu/Xhosa: (solo)

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.

**We are marching in the light of God;
we are marching in the light of God.**

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.

**We are marching in the light of God;
we are marching in the light of God.**

Additional stanzas.:

We are dancing . . .

We are praying . . .

We are singing . . .

*Benediction and Congregational Response Hymn #305 *Come Sing, O Church, In Joy* – v2

2. Long years have come and gone, And still God reigns supreme,

Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!

In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Postlude

