

Date: March 11, 2018

GATHERING

Prelude

“O Welt, ich musis dich lassen”

from *Opus 122, Eleven Chorale Preludes*

Johannes Brahms

Greeting

God is good.

All the time.

And all the time.

God is good.

Call To Worship

We come from north, south, east, and west to proclaim:

God’s steadfast love endures forever.

We come carrying heartbreak and hope to proclaim:

God’s steadfast love endures forever.

We come as children, full of exuberance and uncertainty, to proclaim:

God’s steadfast love endures forever.

We come as elders, bearing wisdom and exhaustion, to proclaim:

God’s steadfast love endures forever.

We come to worship to proclaim:

God’s steadfast love endures forever.

Let us worship God.

Hymn #851 Come, Bring Your Burdens To God

Solo then choir:

Woza nomthwalo wakho;

woza nomthwalo wakho;

woza nomthwalo wakho

Uyes'akasozi hayi.

Congregation: (Repeat until signaled to stop)

Come, bring your burdens to God;

come, bring your burdens to God;

come, bring your burdens to God,

for Jesus will never say no.

*Call to Confession

*Confession of Sin

Holy light, as you bathe us in your radiant truth, you reveal the tiny cracks and deep fissures that compromise our hearts, our churches, and our communities. We see the suffering in the world, but we choose apathy over justice, shame over mercy, and fear over love. We turn our backs, close our borders, and even harden our hearts to your children as they cry out in pain and frustration and terror. And then we blame the victim or the enemy and pretend everything will be okay. (silence for personal confession)

***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 you are 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 vs 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: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

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The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107 response: music on insert

**Give thanks to God, who all goodness has brought us;
God, whose great love shall redeem us forever;
From earth’s wide corners, God’s mercy has sought us;
May God’s redemption depart from us never.**

**Hear when we call from amid desolation,
Starving for life, yet more frightened of living;
When You, O Lord, offer true consolation,
Let us respond with a song of thanksgiving.**

Hear us, the pris'ners of sin and affliction,
 Fast bound in shackles of doubt and misgiving;
 When You, O Lord, offer strength to conviction,
 Let us respond with a song of thanksgiving.

Hear when the earth in its rage would destroy us;
 Wind and the sea steal our passion for living.
 When quiet shelter and love You provide us,
 Let us respond with a song of thanksgiving.

Children's Chat

Rita Boyer, Certified Educator

Second reading: John 3:14-21

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The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God

Sermon

It Is Complicated

Rev. Dr. Rick Boyer

*Hymn #797 We Cannot Measure How You Heal

1. We cannot measure how you heal
 or answer every sufferer's prayer,
 yet we believe your grace responds
 where faith and doubt unite to care.
 Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
 survive to hold and heal and warn,
 to carry all through death to life
 and cradle children yet unborn.

2. The pain that will not go away,
 the guilt that clings from things long past,
 the fear of what the future holds,
 are present as if meant to last.

But present too is love which tends
 the hurt we never hoped to find,
 the private agonies inside,
 the memories that haunt the mind.

3. The pain that will not go away,
 the guilt that clings from things long past,
 the fear of what the future holds,
 are present as if meant to last.
 But present too is love which tends
 the hurt we never hoped to find,
 the private agonies inside,
 the memories that haunt the mind.

*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

Congregational Response: **Walk a straight line through the middle.**

Offering

Musical Offering

My Song Is Love Unknown

Edwin T. Childs

Chancel Choir

***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 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 #653 Give Thanks To God Who Hears Our Cries**

- 1. Give thanks to God who hears our cries
and saves in troubled days
with wondrous works to humankind
that call for highest praise.
Let all who know God's saving love
sing grateful songs always.**

- 2. If you have ever wandered where
no human help was near,
and in your trouble cried to God,
who rescued you from fear,
then thank the God of steadfast love
who dries your every tear.**

**3. If you have ever lived inside
the prison of your gloom
and cried to God, who broke your bonds
and raised you from your tomb,
then praise the One who sets you free,
who makes dry places bloom.**

**4. If you drew near the gates of death,
too sick to eat or dress,
and cried to God, who heard your voice
and healed all your distress,
then sing with sounds of holy joy;
God's wondrous works profess.**

**5. If you have felt your courage fail
before a violent sea
and cried to God, who stilled the storm,
and made the wild wind flee,
then in the congregation praise
the One who heard your plea.**

**6. So praise the One whose love is great,
whose kindness is well-known.
Consider well the healing hand
and help you have been shown,
and tell the world what God has done.
Praise God and God alone!**

***Benediction and Congregational Response**

Hymn #305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy

verse 2 only

**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