

Order of Worship

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
June 23, 2024

Gathering and Welcome *Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

Prelude *Come Thou Almighty King* – arr. Bruce Geer
Jessye Whitis, pianist

***Call to worship** (based on Mark 4:35 - 41)

When the storms of life arise

and the waves threaten to overturn the boat of our faith,

remember the power of our Savior

to calm, to still, to establish peace.

***Hymn # 32** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

***Call to confession**

God gathers and prepares us for worship. Let us confess
the sins that detract and distract us from God's path.

Prayer of confession

**O Holy One, we call to you and name you as eternal,
ever-present, and boundless in love. Yet there are times,
O God, when we fail to recognize you in the dailyness of
our lives. Sometimes shame clenches tightly around our
hearts, and we hide our true feelings. Sometimes fear
makes us small, and we miss the chance to speak from
our strength. Sometimes doubt invades our hopefulness,
and we degrade our own wisdom.**

**Holy God, in the daily round from sunrise to sunset, remind
us again of your holy presence hovering near us and in us.
Free us from shame and self-doubt. Help us to see you in
the moment-by-moment possibilities to live honestly, to act
courageously, and to speak from our wisdom.**

Assurance of pardon

Christ has set us free. Claim your forgiveness. Rejoice
in God's grace. Respond with love. Amen.

Choral Anthem *Promised Land* – arr. Nathalie Sleeth

Prayer for illumination

Prepare our hearts and minds for the hearing of your Word, Holy God. Open us to your truth. Humble us to your way. Amen.

Scripture readings Mark 4: 35 – 41

Sermon *Can You Hear Me Now?*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

Hymn of Response #462 *I Love to Tell the Story

Affirmation of faith (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

**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.**

Call for the offering

In gratitude to God for all our blessings, let us bless others with a portion of all we have been given. Let us present our offerings to God and God's ministry.

Offertory *He Leadeth Me* – William Bradbury

Jessye Whitis, pianist

***Doxology # 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

Prayer of dedication

Most generous God, you have blessed us with gifts to serve and share. May the offerings we present today be used to promote the peace, justice and healing you desire for us and your world. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Even as we suffer, God, we recognize the many ways you show up for us, the many ways you offer comfort, support and care. We, like Job, are humbled before you. We do not and cannot know your ways. We do not know the plan and the path you intend for us or our world. So we bow before you, humbly, reverently, to lift our prayers for all who suffer. In your mercy, God, hear our prayers.

We pray for those caught in the cycle of violence, the victims and the perpetrators, that all may find their way to peace.

We pray for those suffering from disease, that their bodies might find their way to healing and wholeness.

We pray for those suffering from exhaustion and burnout, that their spirit might be lifted, their purpose renewed, their energy restored.

We pray for those suffering from hopelessness, that their faith finds its wings, their spirit finds its way to soar.

Hear these prayers of your people, Holy God, and as the Body of Christ, hear us as we pray the prayer our Savior taught us, "**Our Father ...**"

Hymn of Sending # 463 *How Firm a Foundation

Charge and benediction

God shows up for us in the midst of our suffering.

May we show up for others as well, listening to Christ, our Teacher, and following the Spirit, our Guide.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and always. Amen.

Postlude *When We All Get to Heaven*

Jessye Whitis, pianist

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