Gather in God’s Name

Please silence cell phones and quiet your voices, giving our attention
to the presence of God in our midst

*Indicates that those who are able may stand

Ringing of the Church Bell

Prelude

Prelude on Rhosymedre

Ralph Vaughan Williams

arr. Hal Hopson

Introit

Gitanjali Chant

Coro Vocati Choral Ensemble

Directed by Dr. John Dickson

Craig Johnson

Leader: Ever in my life have I sought thee with my songs. It was they who led me from door to door, and with them have I felt about me, searching and touching my world. It was my songs that taught me all the lessons I ever learnt; they showed me secret paths, they brought before my sight many a star on the horizons of my heart. They guided me all the day long to the mysteries of the country of pleasure and pain, and at last to what palace gate have they brought me at the end of my journey?

People: You came down from your throne and stood at my cottage door. I was singing all alone in a corner, and the melody caught your ear.

Leader: You came down at my cottage door. Masters are many in our hall, and songs are sung there at all hours. But the simple carol of this novice struck at your love. One plaintive little strain mingled with the great music of the world, and with a flow’r for a prize;

People: You came down and stopped at my cottage door.

Leader: You led me on and on, till I found myself in the presence of God, where an abode is for me a-cradling in the bosom of the King. They showed me secret paths, they brought before my sight many a star on the horizons of my heart. They guided me all the day long to the mysteries of the country of pleasure and pain, and at last to what palace gate have they brought me at the end of my journey?

People: You guided me all the day long to the mysteries of the country of pleasure and pain, and at last to what palace gate have they brought me at the end of my journey?

Leader: They guided me all the day long to the mysteries of the country of pleasure and pain, and at last to what palace gate have they brought me at the end of my journey? But the simple carol of this novice struck at your love. One plaintive little strain mingled with the great music of the world, and with a flow’r for a prize;

People: You came down and stopped at my cottage door.

Leader: Holy God, receive our worship of you. We worship the God who listens when we cry out. We worship the God who hears our prayers. We worship the God who is holy, majestic and faithful to us.

People: Come, let us worship the one true God. We worship the God who is holy, majestic and faithful to us.

Leader: Come, let us worship the one true God. We worship the God who hears our prayers.

People: Come, let us worship the one true God. We worship the God who is holy, majestic and faithful to us.

Leader: Let us worship the one true God. We worship the God who hears our prayers.

People: Let us worship the one true God.

Leader: Holy God, receive our worship of you.

People: Holy God, receive our worship of you.

*Hymn 356 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Call to Confession

Our gracious God, we confess that we can act like Goliath, misusing the gifts you have given us, and sometimes even bullying others. We can act like King Saul, wrapped up in our own egos, becoming jealous of the gifts and attentions of others. We can act like David, even when we try to do your will, finding ourselves sinful creatures, wanting people and things that are not good for us. Forgive our shallowness, ingratitude, and pettiness. Help us to stay faithful to you as we seek to bring about your kingdom on earth. Go with us each day as we struggle to fight the giants of hatred, doubt, fear, and hopelessness. Hear as our prayer for your blessings. (A moment for silent confession.) Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel. People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. People: And also with you.

Proclaim God’s Word

Scripture Lesson

1 Samuel 17:41-51

Anthem

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal

Shaw/Parker

From The Southern Harmony and Musical Companion by William Walker

Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore, as I near those swollen waters with their deep and solemn roar.

And my soul, tho’ stain’d with sorrow, fading as the light of day, passes swiftly o’er those waters, to the city far away.

Souls have cross’d before me, saintly, to that land of perfect rest; and I hear them singing fainly in the mansions of the blest.

Refrain: Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, praise the lamb!

Hallelujah, hallelujah, glory to the great I AM!

—Attributed to F. B. Warner

Sermon

“The Promise of David” Curtis Fussell

*Affirmation of Faith

We confess that Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. —from Paul’s Letter to the Philippians 2:5-11

*Gloria Patri

God be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.

Hymn 379

Give Thanks To God

Celebration of Ministry and Membership Emily Wilmarth

(Please sign and pass the friendship registry pad and then return it so you can know your neighbors in God’s household today.)

Minute for Mission: Highlands Community Child Development Center

—Mary Ann Sloan
Prayers of God’s People and The 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts for the Work of God’s Kingdom

Offertory

Love’s Choice

J. A. C. Redford

This bread is light, dissolving, almost air, a little visitation on my tongue,
For consciousness, too strong for sight, leaving the seer blind, the poet mute;
choose instead to seep into each sense, to dye himself into experience.

Yet this is how He comes, through wine and bread.

love chooses to be emptied into me.

For consciousness, too strong for sight, leaving the seer blind, the poet mute;
Choose its aftertaste a memory.

And when to Jordan’s floods, we are come; we are come;
And the waters he’ll divide,
And through all eternity we’ll rejoice;
And through all eternity we’ll rejoice.
And the waters he’ll divide,
And through all eternity we’ll rejoice;
Shouting glory to our King.
Our bondage it shall end, by and by;
And through all eternity we’ll rejoice;
And through all eternity we’ll rejoice.
And through all eternity we’ll rejoice.
And though to Jordan’s floods, we are come; we are come;

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Then with all the happy throng, we’ll rejoice; we’ll rejoice,
In memory of Don’s parents, Lee & Violet Fisher.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive
The flowers in the sanctuary are presented to the glory of God in celebration of the fifty years

And our sorrows have an end,
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