

# Palms Presbyterian Church

September 13, 2020

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



## We Come Together as God's People

### Gathering of God's People

#### Prayer Upon Entering

*Light of lights, shine into our gloom, granting knowledge of your glory in the face of Christ Jesus. In many ways, we are afflicted but not crushed; perplexed but not driven to despair, struck down but not destroyed—for we are confident of your presence wherever we go. Reassure us now that you are with us. Feed our hungers, heal our brokenness, melt away our conflicts, that we may be knit together in the body of Christ to continue the work of Jesus in our world today. Amen.*

#### Prelude

*Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee  
Hymn to Joy*

arr. Anna Laura Page  
arr. Al Travis

#### Welcome & Announcements

#### Introit

*Jubilation  
The Chancel Bells*

Fred Gramann

#### Call to Worship (Responsive)

We have seen the light of God; On high mountains of celebration and in the ecstasy of a loved one's embrace.

**We have seen the light of God.**

Through the bitter scorn of betrayal and the searing chasm of grief.

**We have seen the light of God.**

With eyes that have been shaded, with eyes that have been opened, with eyes that have been blinded.

**We have seen the light of God.**

*Standing Strong in faith, we gather in God's name to shine a light in the dark.*

## We Praise God and Celebrate God's Grace

#### Opening Hymn

*Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness: Christ Be Our Light*

# 314

#### THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**We are reluctant to face your judgment, all-knowing God. We know we have not fully invested the talents you have entrusted to us. We hide them and hoard them, retreating into a false sense of security. We live in the nighttime of self-protection rather than in the light of full participation in loving, faithful service. We seek to escape your wrath by shrinking from life rather than investing ourselves in the tasks to which you call us. Have mercy on us, O God. Help us to be children of the day—your day. (A time for Silent and Personal Confession.)**

#### Kyrie

*You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!*

# 437

You are the Lord, giver of mercy! You are the Christ, giver of mercy! You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

#### The Assurance of Pardon (Responsive)

Aware of our frailty we are reminded that it is not we who chose Christ,

**but Christ who chose us,**

That we are not here because of our goodness,

**but because of Christ's grace,**

That we are not here to enlighten ourselves,

**but to allow Christ to enlighten us,**

***The love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit sets us free from our sins.***

#### \*Response to God's Love and Forgiveness

*Eternal Are Thy Mercies, Lord*

# 327

Eternal mercies are Thy mercies, Lord; Eternal truth attends Thy word. Alleluia! Alleluia! Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

\* Affirmation of Faith (Unison) – from Declaration of Faith PCUSA (ch 4)

***God made us for life in community. God created human beings with a need for community and with freedom to enter into it by responding to their Maker with grateful obedience and to one another with love and helpfulness. We believe that we have been created to relate to God and each other in freedom and responsibility. We may misuse our freedom and deny our responsibility by trying to live without God and other people or against God and other people. Yet we are still bound to them for our life and well-being and intended for free and responsible fellowship with them. Since every human being is made for communion with God and others, we must treat no one with contempt. We are to respect and love all other people and ourselves as well.***

#### **A Time for Children**

#### **Invitation to Offering**

#### **Offertory**

*It Is Well with My Soul*

arr. Anna Laura Page

#### **\*Doxology**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

# 606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

### **We Hear God's Word**

#### **Old Testament Lesson**

Psalm 119:105, 130

#### **Anthem**

Meditation on *Beautiful Savior*

arr. Cathy Moglebust

#### **New Testament Lesson**

John 1:6-9; Matthew 5:14-16; John 12:35-36

#### **Sermon**

Keepers of the Light

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Weenink

#### **Response**

*O Splendor of God's Glory Bright*

text by Ambrose of Milan – 4<sup>th</sup> century

#### **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who are 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.

#### **Sending Hymn**

*Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed*

# 489

### **AN ORDER FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

Baptism of Carter Nevolis

#### **THE INTRODUCTION**

#### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

#### **THE PRESENTATION**

#### **THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS**

#### **QUESTIONS OF INTENTION AND AFFIRMATION FOR PARENTS**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

As disciples of Jesus Christ, will you seek to deepen your own faith that you may be a Christian example for Carter?

Will you seek to encourage your child's Christian faith that Carter will grow to love God and neighbor, to follow our Lord's teachings and to seek the fellowship of the church?

#### **CONGREGATIONAL QUESTION OF INTENTION**

Our Lord Jesus Christ ordered us to teach those who are baptized. Do you, the people of the church, promise to tell all the good news of the gospel, to help them know all that Christ commands, and by your fellowship build a community of faith and love to strengthen their family ties with the household of God?

#### **Blessing and Dismissal**

Worshippers are invited to dismiss by maintaining a loving social distance. Please allow the Nevolis family to exit the double N. transept doors and gather around the Oasis Garden font nearest the chapel.

# Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

## Christ, Be Our Light

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus Em

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
 3 Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for  
 4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for  
 5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em Am7

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone  
 wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants

D G C Am Dsus D

your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.  
 has power to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.  
 bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.  
 shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.  
 to one an-oth-er, mak-ing your king-dom come.

Refrain G C G Em Bm Em

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7

dark-ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7 G

church gath-ered to-day.

By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, this hymn connects Christ's promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) and his charge to his followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is part of the church's servant calling.

## Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed 489

1 Won - der of won - ders, here re - vealed: God's cov - e -  
 2 Here in this sac - ra - ment we see God's grace un -  
 3 This child of God, though young or old, we wel - come  
 4 Now we our vow of faith re - new, stretch wide our

nant with us is sealed, and long be - fore we  
 bound, for all, for me! May we re - spond with  
 now in - to Christ's fold, to know with us God's  
 sights to glo - bal view, and claim with Chris - tians

know or pray, God's love en - folds us ev - ery day.  
 joy - ful praise in lov - ing ser - vice all our days.  
 lov - ing care, and all our joys and sor - rows share.  
 far and near a larg - er fam - i - ly held dear.

In creating this text (for which she chose this existing tune as its setting), the author wished to emphasize two themes: that God loves us before we know how to love in return, and that through baptism we become part of a worldwide family unbounded by space or time.