

Scriptural Meditation

*Every good and perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights,
who does not change like shifting shadows.*

James 1:17

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of Our Church Bell

Welcome and Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ

Choral Introit

Down In the River To Pray
Semo University Choir

arr. by David L. Mennicke

Call to Worship

One: God has given us this day for praise!

All: Praise be to God for this most generous gift!

One: God has given his Son to us
that we might learn ways of peace and mercy.

**All: Let the words of God's own Son, Jesus,
enter our hearts and transform our lives!**

One: Come, let us worship this great God of abundant mercy and love!

**All: Let our songs, our words, and our thoughts
reflect God's healing and restoring love. Amen.**

Prayer of Invocation

*Gathering Song

For the Beauty of the Earth

#14

*Prayer of Reconciliation

Let us remain standing and express ourselves to God.

All: Compassionate God, we like to think that all we have to do is be "religious," to speak the words, but that we really don't have to "walk the walk." We can get so caught up in ritual and rules, that we forget the essence of your word for us. We forget that we are called to truly be people of peace, not just to speak the words, but to practice lives of compassion and hope. So many times in this world, we are challenged to "take sides," one against the other; but that is contrary to Your Will. You call us to stand for mercy, justice, love, forgiveness, hope, and peace. You want us to be people who care deeply about others and about this world. Help us to be ready to truly and joyfully serve you, O God. Free us from selfishness and self-centeredness. Lift us to lives of peace; for we offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*A Time for Contemplation (*in quiet, for you and God*)

*Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Even if you have transgressed and done what you know to be wrong, remember that God will heal and forgive you; sending you on your way to become a person of peace, hope, love and justice. Be at peace. God is with you. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*Gloria Patri

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Glory 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.

God's Word for Little Ears

~Hearing God's Word~

Prayer for Understanding God's Word

All: God of truth and light, you challenge us to live faithful lives—to turn away from evil, to follow your ways, to serve your people. May your word of truth grow within us this day, that we may bring forth a harvest of your peace. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

p. 623

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

It is Well With My Soul

arr. Tom Fettk

New Testament Epistle

James 1:17-27

p.229

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Lesson

Mark 7:1-8, 14-16, 21-23

p. 42

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Message

There Are Rules & Then There Are Rules

Pastor Kim Nelson

~Responding to God's Word~

*Affirmation of Our Faith

Let us stand and affirm our faith.

All: We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn; in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire. We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity. We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place; into action, into vulnerability and into the streets. We commit ourselves to work for change and to put ourselves on the line; to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation; to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of hope. Amen. [Based on the Affirmation of Faith from the Iona Abbey]

Invitation to Become a Joyful Giver

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings, & Friendship Pad

Please take a moment to sign your name and contact information in the pew pad.

Offertory

Down By The Riverside

by arr. John Rutter

***Doxology**

(Tune: *Amazing Grace*)

**All: Praise God the Father, Praise His name
Praise Jesus Christ, Our Lord.
And praise the Spirit with them one
Now and forevermore.**

Public Domain.

***The Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People followed by Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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

Choral Response to our Prayers

In My Life Lord, Be Glorified

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~Going Forth to Serve God~

Life in Our Church Community

***Song of Sending Forth**

I've Got Peace Like a River

623

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

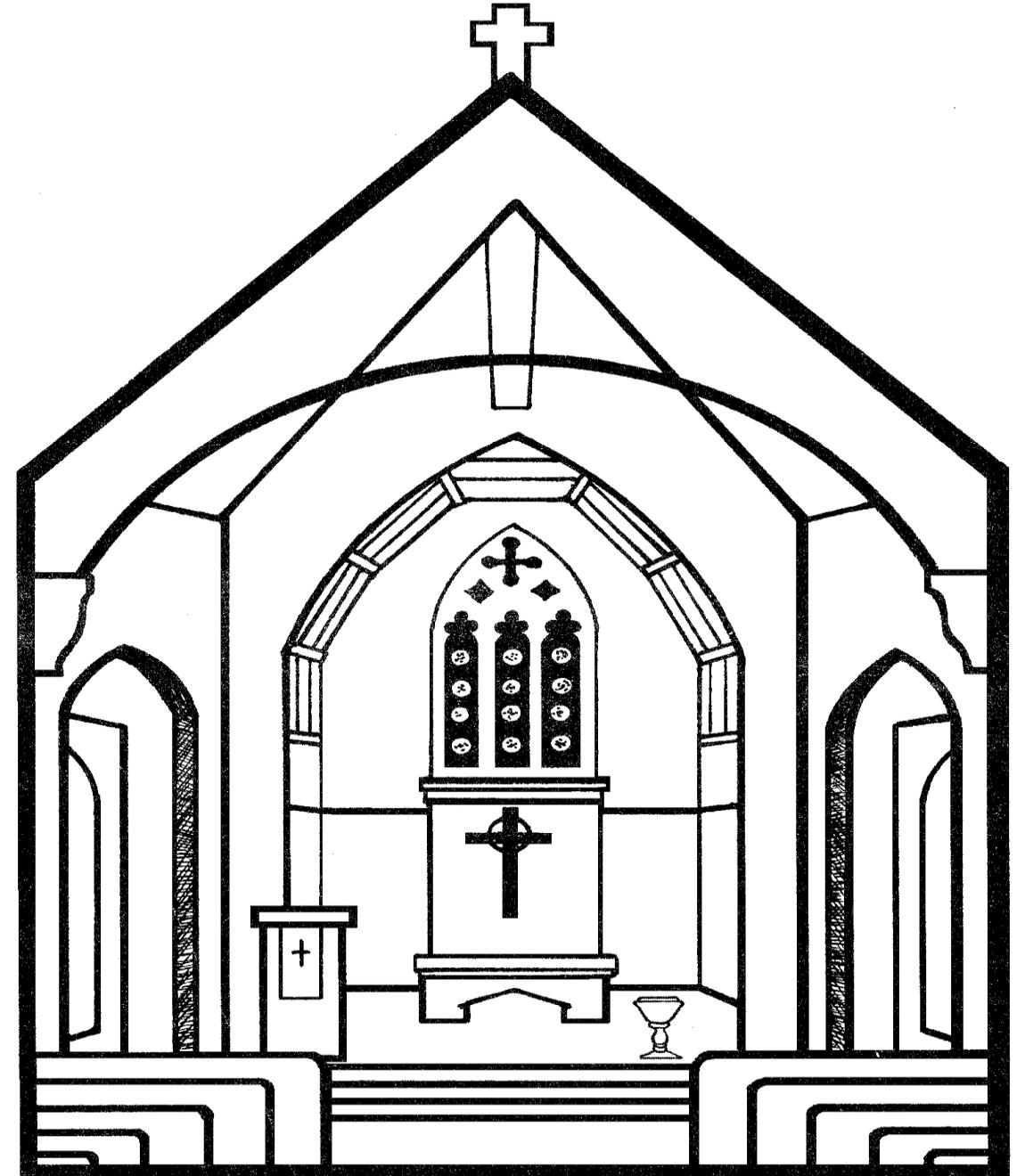
Voluntary in A Major

by William Selby

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***Please stand, if you are able.**

Electronic aid for the hearing impaired is available from the usher.



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