

Scriptural Meditation

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise. Galatians 2:27-29

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of Our Church Bell

Welcome and Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ

Prelude *Panis Angelicus* by César Franck (1822-1890)

Call to Worship

One: Our relationships with our fathers are complicated.

All: For some of us, our father's love is like God's love – too deep, too long, too wide, too strong to measure.

One: Some of our dads are here; some were never here.

All: For some of us, God's love fills in the empty spaces our fathers left behind.

One: All of us are shaped by the relationship or lack of relationship with our fathers.

All: On this day when we remember what it means to have a father or be a father, we recognize the importance of fathers in our communities. We pledge as a congregation to love and nurture the fathers among us so that they will manifest the love of God in all that they do.

Prayer of Invocation

* **Gathering Song** *This is My Father's World* # 370

* Prayer of Reconciliation

Let us remain standing and express ourselves to God.

All: Lord, you know that so many of our dilemmas and burdens are of our own creation, coming out of our stubbornness and fear. Forgive us when we decide not to become involved in a solution, when we would rather back off and turn and run for cover. Give us an extra measure of courage and strength along with your forgiving love, that we may again place our whole trust in you. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

***A Time for Contemplation** (a private time for you and God)

*Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Let go of all that binds you in sorrow. Christ reaches out to you in love. Receive God's loving blessings, for they are given especially for you. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*Gloria Patri

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.

Tune: Gloria Patri, Henry W. Greatorex, 1851, Public Domain.

God's Word for Little Ears

The Story of Our Baptismal Font
with Joe Regenhardt

Heifer Project

Recognition of Birthdays and Anniversaries

A Song of Blessing (Adapted from an Irish Blessing, Tune: *Amazing Grace*)

All: May joy and peace surround you, contentment at your door, And happiness be with you now, God bless you evermore.

~Hearing God's Word~

Prayer for Understanding God's Word

All: God of mercy, You promised never to break Your covenant with us. Amid all the changing words of our generation, speak Your eternal Word that does not change. Then may we respond to Your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

I Kings 19:1-10

page 326

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Be sure to read the story of Johnny Cash in our insert. God will seek you no matter where you are!

Psalm Psalm 42

One: Like a deer panting for streams of water so the very core of my being longs for you, O God.

All: My life thirsts for God, the God of life; When will I enter and see the face of God?

One: My tears were my food day and night when they said to me day after day, "Where is your God?"

All: Let me remember these things and pour out my life; how I would cross over with the crowd, and walk slowly to the house of God with the sound of joyful shouts and thanksgiving, and festive procession.

One: I ask my inmost self, "Why are you dejected, and why your groaning within me?"

All: Wait for God with hope, because I will praise him again, the helping presence of my God."

One: My life within me is despairing; therefore I will remember you, from the land of Jordan and Hermon, from the mountain of Mizar

All: Deep calls to deep to the clamor of water-spouts.

One: All your breakers and waves have overwhelmed me.

All: Day by day the LORD orders his lovingkindness and in the night his song is with me, a prayer to the living God.

One: I say to God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why do I walk in deepening darkness, in the trouble caused by my enemies?"

All: With a feeling of death in my bones my enemies taunt me, saying to me day after day, "Where is your God?"

One: I ask my inmost self, "Why are you dejected, and why your groaning within me?"

All: Wait for God with hope, because I will praise him again, the helping presence of my God."

For use in worship, with acknowledgement. © Jeff Shrowder 2000.

Special Music *Eternal Life* (The Prayer of St. Francis) by Olive Dungan
Lily Parker, Soloist, Judith Farris, Accompanist

New Testament Epistle Galatians 3:23-29 page 189

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson Mark 5:1-20 page 39

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Message *Really, Who is in Charge?* Pastor Kim Nelson

~Responding to God's Word~

***Affirmation of Faith**

Let us stand and affirm our faith.

All: 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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; 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 Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen. [The Apostles Creed]

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 *As the Deer* (#626) arr. by John Carter

***Doxology** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow/Doxology*

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: A-men.**

Tune: Old Hundredth LM, Genevan Psalter 1551, Public Domain.

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.

~Going Forth to Serve God~

Life in Our Church Community

***Song of Sending Forth** *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* # 8

***Benediction**

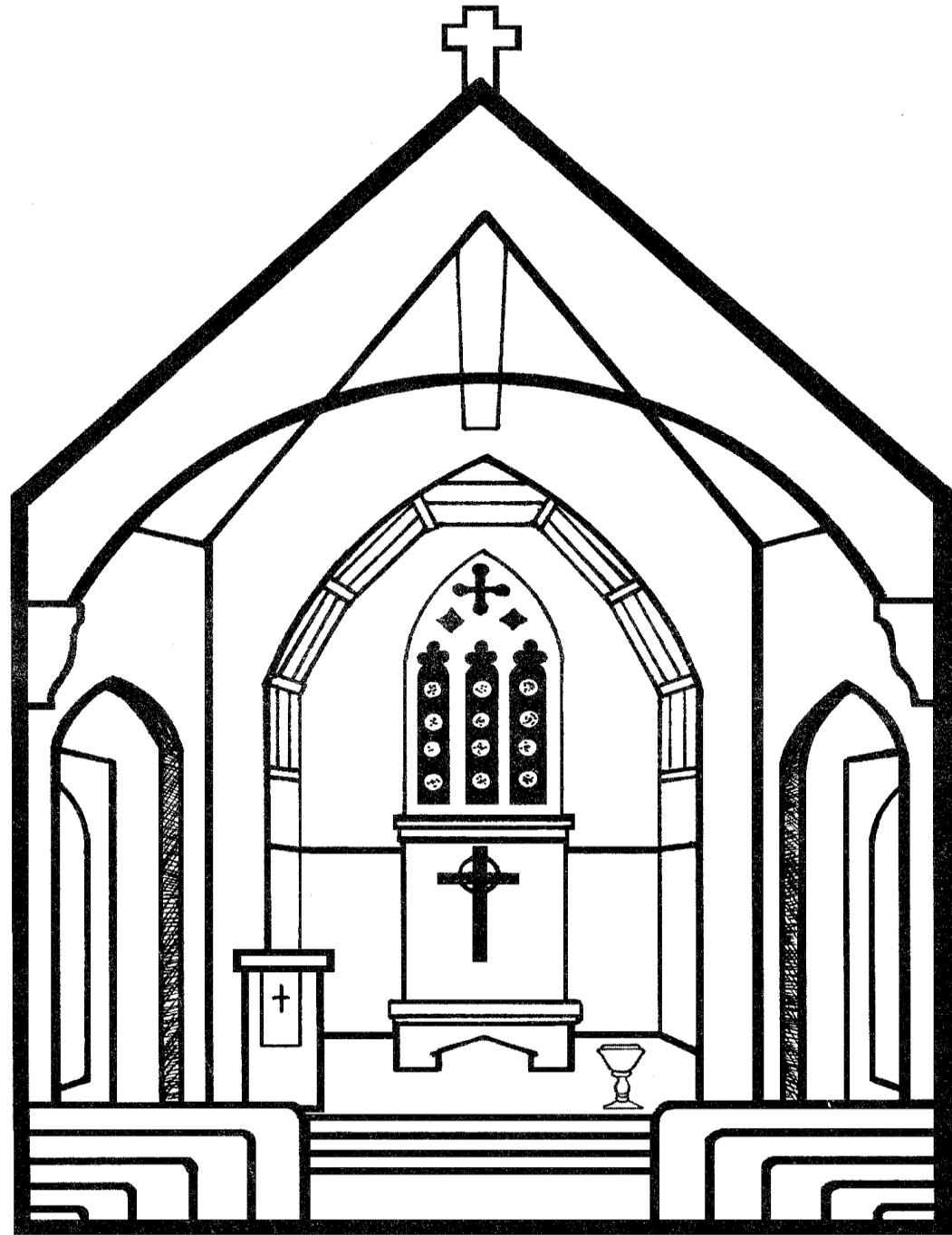
***Postlude** *Praeludium in g minor, BWV 535* by J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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*Please stand, if you are able.

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

Music printed and recorded for congregational use only under CCLI # 11373529



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