

## ~Gathering the Family of God~

**The Peal of Our Church Bell****Welcome**

**Prelude** *Pastorale* Domenica Zipolo

**Choral Call to Worship** *Come Ye Thankful People, Come*

**Call to Worship and Opening Prayer**

One: Church! Do not be afraid, God goes before you leading the way.

**All: We answer the call and follow, preparing ourselves for God's great adventure.**

One: Give your whole life, including all that you treasure, to Christ in faith.

**All: We are ready for Christ. Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

One: Let us pray together,

**All: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, for you have provided for your people.**

**You have turned manna in the wilderness into the bread of life,**

**You have turned water from a rock into a spring of everlasting life.**

**You have called us here to worship where there is grace, where there is promise, where there is love. Here we see you face to face. Amen.**

**\* Gathering Song** *Let All Things Now Living* #37

**\* Prayer of Confession**

*Let us remain standing and express ourselves to God.*

**Lord, you are before and behind us, whether we stand in the midst of a crowd or the edge of the wilderness. We look at your path, but sometimes we are afraid and we turn our eyes back instead; we long for what is comfortable and familiar.**

**We hear your voice, but it is so easy to turn toward the many other voices offering a life of fun and prosperity. We pray for your will to be done, but it is easier to just go along as we always have. Forgive us, O God. Turn us forward, and set our feet on your path.**

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

**\*Words of Assurance**

The whole congregation complained in the wilderness, saying, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in downtown Cape, where we gathered up our wealth and ate our fill every day; but now you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole congregation with hunger."

**Draw near to the Lord, who has heard your complaining.**

**Look deeper into the wilderness; God is there.**

**God will provide enough for us, and no one will be left unfed.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

# 581

**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.

## ~Hearing God's Word~

**God's Word for Little Ears****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.**

**Prayer for Understanding God's Word**

**All: God of our life, open our ears to hear your Word read; open our minds to understand it anew; and, open our hearts that our lives may be changed by the transforming power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Epistle**

Colossians 1:11-20

Page 200

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel**

Luke 1:68-79

Page 58

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem***The Lord He Made the Earth & Sky***Epistle**

Hebrews 11:23-29

Page 226

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Old Testament**

Exodus 13:17-22

Page 60

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Message***God Goes Before Us*

Rev. Terry Epling

## ~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 Ghost, 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 Ghost; 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. You may also share any joys or concerns on the cards in the pews. Place them in the offering plate for inclusion in the prayers of the people.*

### Offertory

*Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense*

J.S. Bach

### Dedication of Gifts

Great God, your liberating power opened a way through the waters and guided your people through the wilderness. Guide the use of these gifts by that same power. Free us from the need to determine and control your grace, and turn us into servants of your boundless love, poured out for us in Jesus Christ.

### \*Doxology

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow  
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: Amen.*

# 606

### Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

#### The Lord's Prayer (unison)

*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

#### \*Closing Hymn

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

#81

#### \*Benediction

#### \*Choral Benediction

*In the Lord I'll be ever Thankful*

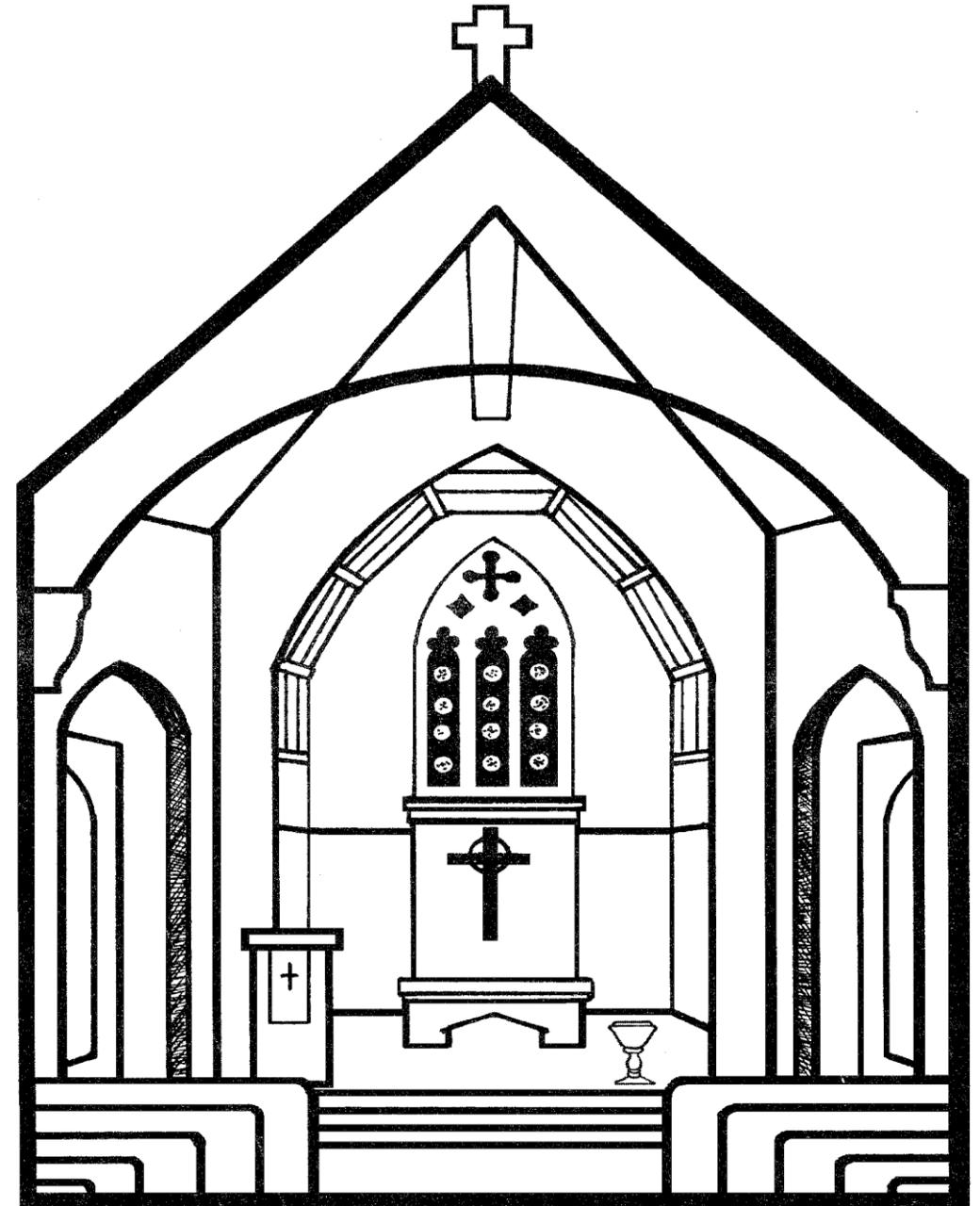
#### \*Postlude

*Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

J.G. Walther

\*Please stand, if you are able.

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI