

Scriptural Meditation

My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring them back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the way of error will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

James 5:19-20

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of Our Church Bell

Welcome and Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ

Prelude Meditation by G. Dupont

Call to Worship

One: It's a great day to be here.

All: **There are so many things we can do to serve the Lord.**

One: Just listen for God's call to you. Let God guide your life.

All: **We are willing to open our lives to God's service.**

One: Come, let's worship and celebrate God's good news for us.

All: **Let us bring our hopes and prayers to God with joy. Amen.**

Prayer of Invocation

* **Gathering Song** Here I Am, Lord (verses for teachers)

Refrain:

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling me this day.
I will teach, Lord, if You lead me;
I will hold your children in my heart.**

Verse 1:

**I, the Lord of Life and Birth, value every age's worth.
Nurture all I send your way; my hand will help.
Families are gifts I give. Show them holy ways to live.
Open minds and eyes to me. Who'll teach my ways?**

Refrain

Verse 2:

**I, the Lord of Young and Old, want my stories to be told.
Teach them in your church and homes; I will be there.
Fill their hearts with songs to sing; let them bring their offerings.
Listen to their doubts and prayers. Who'll teach my ways?**

Refrain © 2002, Linda LeBron. Used by permission

*Prayer of Reconciliation

Let us stand and express ourselves to God.

All: **Patient Lord, we know that you call us to service, but we often feel inadequate. We love to make excuses for not doing something or for doing something only half-heartedly. Remind us again of your loving and guiding presence. Forgive us when we stumble and falter. Turn us again to you, serving joyfully and confidently. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

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

*Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Beloved Ones, you are the salty people - those who bring flavor to living. Your spirit of love and confidence gives hope to others. Remember that the Lord is always with you. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

*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.

Dedication of Our Christian Educators

One: God, source of all knowledge and wisdom.

All: **We pray to you.**

One: Jesus, the teacher who calls disciples to follow him.

All: **We pray to you.**

One: Spirit, bringer of understanding and insight.

All: **We pray to you.**

One: Holy God, who created a world intricate in detail and rich in potential, help us to comprehend your reign in every area of our lives that we may more perfectly glorify you in our work, in our neighborhoods, in our schools and in our families, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Invite teachers in Pre-Schools, Schools, and Colleges to stand:

One: Lord, God, we thank you for teachers, for their enthusiasm and hard work and for all they invest in the children and young people that they teach. Help them as they transform their places of work and their relationships through the way that they teach.

One: Fill them afresh with your Spirit

All: **And inspire them to walk in your ways.**

Invite pupils—children and young people in preschool, schools, and college, to stand:

One: Lord God, we thank you for these young people. Help them to make the most of the opportunities that they have—to be diligent students, to play creatively and to know that you delight in them as they seek to follow you.

One: Fill them afresh with your Spirit

All: And inspire them to walk in your ways.

Invite those involved in all types of education--both students and lecturers, and those in other roles, to stand:

One: Lord God, we thank you for all those in education, those who teach and those who learn. Help them to be salt and light in the places where they study and work, able to point people towards you through what they say and what they do.

One: Fill them afresh with your Spirit

All: And inspire them to walk in your ways.

Invite parents, caregivers and grandparents, and all those who care for pupils, to stand:

One: Lord God, we thank you for those among us who nurture the next generation. Help them to love without condition, to set boundaries with wisdom and to find support and encouragement along the way.

One: Fill them afresh with your Spirit

All: And inspire them to walk in your ways.

Invite everyone else to stand:

One: Lord God, we thank you for the education we have received from teachers and schools, from colleges and universities, from parents and friends. Help us to support those who work in education, to appreciate the important job that they do in shaping the future of our world and to remember them in our prayers.

One: Fill them afresh with your Spirit

All: And inspire them to walk in your ways. To the Glory of God. Amen.

~Hearing God's Word~

Prayer for Understanding God's Word

All: God, make the words we are about to hear living words in the core of our being. By your Spirit tell us what we need to hear, and show us what we ought to do, to joyfully follow Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Psalm 124 *A Responsive Reading*

One: If it had not been for the LORD

we would have been devoured by those who attack us,

All: their anger was like a raging bushfire.

One: They would have swallowed us alive,

**All: like raging flood waters sweeping over our necks,
and like an avalanche, a frozen flood, swallowed our lives.**

One: Blessed is the LORD

All: who did not allow us to be caught like prey to their teeth.

One: We have escaped with our lives like a bird out of a trap;

All: the trap is broken and we have escaped.

One: Our help is in the name of the LORD

All: who made heaven and earth.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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(The additional Old Testament reading for this day is Esther 7:1-10; 9:20-22. It is definitely an adult only reading.

However, the story of Esther is well worth reading and studying. The theological importance of Esther is summed up in comprehending God's uncompromising love of His People. Regardless how desperate the situation maybe, God saving and eternal grace is omnipresent.)

Anthem *When We Are Living (Pues si vivimos)* arr. by Hal H. Hopson (#822)

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,

And when we're dying, it is in the Lord,

both in our living and in our dying,

we belong to God, we belong to God

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.

Good works of service are for offering.

When we are giving or when receiving,

we belong to God, we belong to God.

Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,

when sensing beauty or in loves embrace,

whether we suffer or sing rejoicing,

we belong to God, we belong to God.

Across the wide world, we shall always find

those who are crying with no peace of mind,

but when we help them or when we feed them

we belong to God, we belong to God.

We belong to God, we belong to God.

New Testament Epistle

James 5:13-20

p. 231

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Lesson

Mark 9:38-50

p. 45

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Message

Discipleship Requires Your Best Effort

Pastor Kim Nelson

~Responding to God's Word~

***Affirmation of Faith**

Let us stand and affirm our faith.

One: Jesus was born in a barn because there was no room available in the inn. The innkeeper and most of the people in Bethlehem that night thought he was nobody, but we say,

All: He is the Christ! (*getting louder each time*)

One: Jesus made friends with everyone. He ate dinner with Zaccheus, the cheating tax-collector. He healed foreigners. He touched lepers. Lots of people said he was a troublemaker, but we say,

All: He is the Christ!

One: Jesus was a teacher. Crowds of people gathered on hillsides to hear him speak about God's love. The teachers in the Temple said he was wrong about God's love, but we say,

All: He is the Christ!

One: Jesus said, "Love your enemies," "Give to those in need," and "Those who lose their life for my sake will save it." Most people thought he was crazy, but we say,

All: He is the Christ!

One: Jesus was arrested, tried, and sentenced to die on a cross. The political and religious leaders thought they were rid of him, but he rose, and he lives. We know that.

All: He is the Christ!

One: When Jesus said, "If anyone wants to come with me, he must forget himself, carry his cross, and follow me," most people went home. But we stay, and we say,

All: He is the Christ!

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

Adagio

by F. Mendelssohn

***Doxology** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* (# 606)

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.

***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

Sung Prayer Response

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

#471

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me,
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me. (Repeat)**

Words & Music: Jacques Berthier © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (France).

~Going Forth to Serve God~

Life in Our Church Community

***Song of Sending Forth—**

O Lord My God/How Great Thou Art

625

***Benediction**

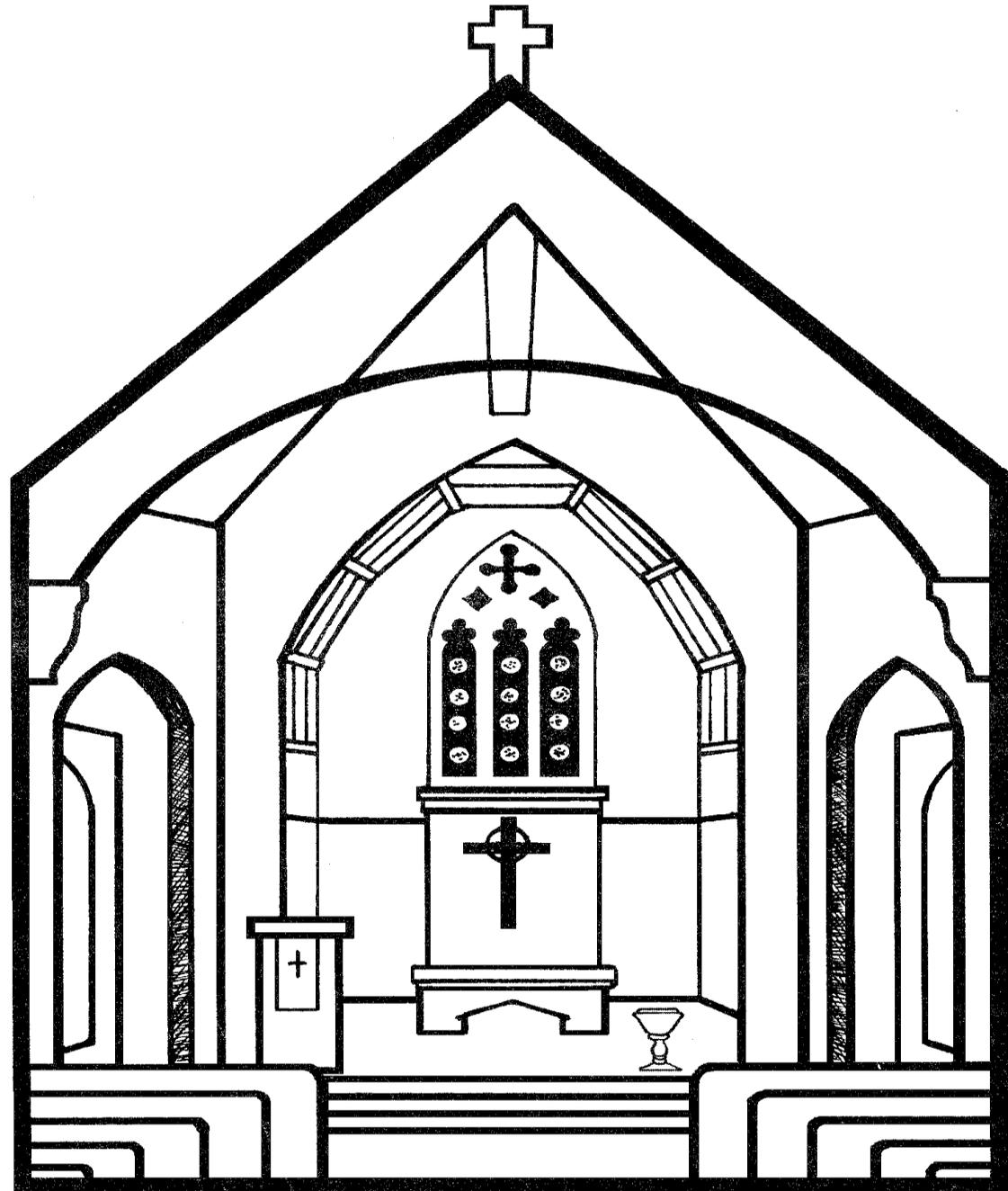
***Postlude**

Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals by Sigfrid Karg-Elert

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

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI