



Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working



The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

June 20, 2021

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

As you prepare for worship today you are invited to light a candle in your worship space or gaze upon the Christ candle in the Sanctuary to center yourself for the worship of God.

Prelude

St. Denio

arr. Kevin McChesney

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Sanctuary Handbells

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

God alone laid the foundations of the earth.

The morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy.

From the midst of the whirlwind, God speaks with power.

We have seen the deeds of the Lord, who commands and raises the stormy wind and also makes the storm be still. We ourselves have seen the wondrous deeds of the Lord!

*Prayer of Invocation

O Lord our God, when we cry out to you in distress, you bring us through desperate circumstances. You can quiet the storm to a whisper and hush the sea's waves, so great is your power. Help us to trust you, then, whatever we may face, knowing that you will lead us to the harbor we have been hoping for. We offer you our thanks and praise. Amen.

305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

1 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
 2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,
 3 Let cour - age be our friend; let wis - dom be our guide,
 4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!
 em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!
 as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!
 For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

This text was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Bicentennial Committee for the 1988-1989 observance, which had the theme "Celebrate the Journey." The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) is appropriately celebratory.

TEXT: Brian Dill, 1988
 MUSIC: John Darwall, 1770
 Text © 1989 Brian Dill

DARWALL'S 148TH
 6.6.6.6.8.8

Children's Moment

Children's Worship

Call to Confession

Do not accept the grace of God in vain, for God has said: At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you. Let us confess our sins before God, who will listen and help us in our weakness.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Saving God, we confess that our faith is too small, our fear is too great. When we are overwhelmed, we think you do not care enough for us. When life is uncertain and risky, we are not sure we can trust you with our whole hearts. Even when you move among us in powerful ways, we question who you are. Forgive us and calm our fears, we pray. Teach us to trust in your power to save and guide us in every circumstance. Grant us your peace, which is clearly beyond our understanding. In Christ's name we pray...

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

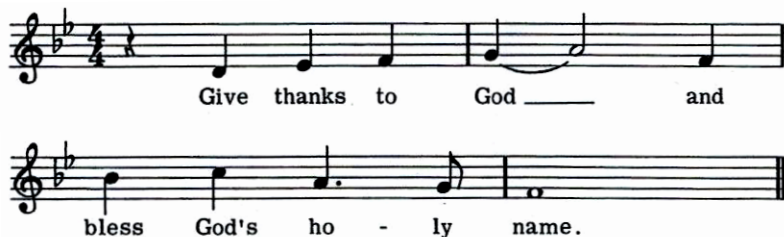
Christ offers peace to our troubled souls. Believe this One whom even the wind and sea obey. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Psalm 107:1-3;17-22

Cantor: Deb Kaiser

Refrain

Hal H. Hopson



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Prayer of Illumination

Holy God, we know that our own words lack knowledge whenever we try to speak of you or to you. Yet we are drawn into your presence and desire to understand all your mysteries. So now, by the gift of your Holy Spirit, speak your words and we will listen carefully, responding in awe and gratitude. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

First Reading

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

The word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

Music Ministry

Luigi Cheribini

arr. Austin Lovelace

“Like as a Father”

Sanctuary Choir

Like as a father, filled with compassion,
comforts all his children, so the Lord
has mercy on those who love Him.

The word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

Sermon

The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

Take My Life

697



1 Take my life and let it be con-se - crat-ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al-ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with-hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery power as



cease - less praise; let them flow in cease - less praise.
ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
ges from thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

This hymn of consecration radiates from the repeated word "take," resulting in a remarkably full survey of a person's attributes and possessions and giving weight to the "all" at the end. The composer of the tune was influential in the renewal of Reformed hymnody in French.

TEXT: Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874
MUSIC: H. A. César Malan, 1827

HENDON
7.7.7.7

***Affirmation of Faith (Unison) The Apostles' Creed**

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.

Father's Day Litany (Responsive)

For fathers everywhere, who have given us life and love.

Holy God, hear this prayer for our fathers.

For fathers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them.

Holy God, hear this prayer for our fathers that mourn.

For men who may or may not have children of their own, but act like a father to someone in need of advice, support, nurturing, and love.

Holy God, hear this prayer for our father figures.

For step-fathers who have assumed that role with love and joy, who have loved the children of another as their own, and created a new family.

Holy God, hear this prayer for step-fathers.

For adoptive fathers, who have heard the call of God to lovingly step forward for those that need their care.

Holy God, hear this prayer for adoptive fathers.

For fathers who have been unable to be a source of strength, who have not responded to the needs of their children, and have not sustained their families.

Holy God, have mercy on absentee fathers.

For fathers who struggle with temptation, violence, or addiction. For those who do harm, and for those whom they have harmed.

Holy God, have mercy on fathers that struggle.

For new fathers, full of hope. For long-time fathers, full of wisdom. For the fathers yet to be, and fathers soon to be.

Holy God, hear our prayer for the fathers of your Church.

For those that have shaped our lives without claim of family or kinship. For those who have taught us, guided us, shaped us and molded us into disciples of Jesus Christ.

Holy God, hear our prayer for the fathers of our faith.

God, in your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their children, honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray together saying...

Lord's Prayer

Choral Amen

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.

[Call to Stewardship](#) (click here to be directed to our online giving)

We are invited, even urged, to open our hearts wide and to place no boundaries on our affection for God's people. Let us then share generously our provisions with others.

Offertory

St. Catherine

Henri F. Hemy 1864

"Faith of Our Fathers"

Congregational Response Hymn 606 *Old Hundredth* Doxology

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.

Offertory Prayer

How grateful we are, O God, that you call us to serve with the Holy Spirit, who fills us with patience and generosity and genuine love. We pray that all we return to you will be used faithfully in the ministry to the world. In the name of Christ. Amen.

463 How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis-mayed,
3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

The musical score is written for four parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/2. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with line numbers 1 through 5 corresponding to the first five lines of the hymn.



What more can be said than to you God hath said,
I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign,
that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

TEXT: "K" in John Rippons's *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
MUSIC: American folk melody; Funk's *Genuine Church Music*, 1832, alt.

FOUNDATION
11.11.11.11

Benediction

The Peace of Christ (Responsive)

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Postlude

Robert C. Lau

"Trumpet Tune"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, June 20 Father's Day

- 8:00 AM Sanctuary Handbell Warm-up
- 9:00 AM Sunday School Classes
- 10:15 AM Sanctuary Choir Warm-up
- 10:40 AM Morning Worship, Sanctuary
No Youth Group

Wednesday, June 23

- 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, June 27 Guest Preacher Stephanie Williams

- 9:00 AM Sunday School Classes
- 10:15 AM Sanctuary Choir Warm-up
- 10:40 AM Morning Worship, Sanctuary
- 1:00 PM PYP Pool Party

Today's Liturgy has been adapted from:

Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Liturgies
for Year B, Volume 2

Father's Day Litany has been adapted by Robb McCoy from the
United Methodist Book of Worship, page 441.

Cover Art by Richard Dodson