



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

February 7, 2021

Holy Communion
The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome and Announcements

Let us lift up our voices in song and prayer that we may walk in the newness of life.

Prelude

J.S. Bach

“Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Have we not known? Have we not heard?

Has it not been told to us since the beginning?

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;

they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

they shall run and not be weary;

they shall walk and not faint.

Prayer of Invocation

Gracious God, you call us to follow Christ and spread the good news of your love for all people. Help us to become all things to all people that we might reach many with your good news. Amen.

30 O God, in a Mysterious Way



1 O God, in a mys - te - rious way great won - ders you per - form.
2 Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of nev - er - fail - ing skill,
3 O fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take. The clouds you so much dread
4 Our un - be - lief is sure to err and scan your work in vain.



You plant your foot - steps in the sea and ride up - on the storm.
you trea - sure up your bright de - signs and work your sov - ereign will.
are big with mer - cy and shall break in bless - ings on your head.
You are your own in - ter - pret - er, and you will make it plain.

This classic text gains renewed energy and focus from its recasting here: despite our fear and confusion, we can trust that God's providential purposes will eventually be revealed. In its original source the tune printed here is one of twelve not assigned to a specific hymn.

TEXT: William Cowper, 1773, alt.
MUSIC: Scottish Psalm, 1615

DUNDEE
CM
(alternate harmonization, 45)

Children's Moment

The Rev. David Slyter

Call to Confession

We fool ourselves if we think that our ways are hidden from God. Therefore let us confess our sin, trusting in the mercy of God our maker, as we pray together the prayer in the bulletin, followed by your own silent prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God, you are everlasting, the creator of all that is. Your understanding is beyond measure. We confess to you that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. In your compassion, forgive us, for we place our hope in your steadfast love.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Praise the Lord! Our God heals the brokenhearted and binds up our wounds. God takes pleasure in those who place their trust in God's grace. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Prayer of Illumination

Holy God, speak to us what has been told from the beginning, your Word that is the foundation of the world. Amen.

First Reading

Mark 1:29-39

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

Music Ministry

Robert A. Hobby

"God Has Called US"
Sanctuary Choir, 2010

God has called us: and how can we but
raise our voices, echoing God's praise?
God has called us: and let us answer with our lives.
God has changed us: and how can we but live
as servants of the Spirit's gift?

God has changed us: and let us worship with our lives.
God has charged us: and how can we but ask
for wisdom for the Christly task?
God has charged us:
and let us labor with our lives.

Second Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

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

835 Just a Closer Walk with Thee



Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it,
 1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus,
 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I
 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for



Je - sus, is my plea, dai - ly walk - ing close to
 keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as
 fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den
 me will be no more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly



thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
 long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Ref.*
 shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Ref.*
 o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. *Ref.*

The chromatic musical style of this anonymous short hymn suggests that it probably dates from the early 20th century. It also seems to owe much of its popularity to radio broadcasts and recordings as well as to evangelistic meetings and singing conventions of that era.

TEXT and MUSIC: Trad. North American hymn

CLOSER WALK
 Irregular

Affirmation of Faith

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.

Call to Stewardship

Let us give thanks to God by giving our tithes and offerings.

Offertory

Theodore Beck

“Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness”

Congregational Response Hymn 606 Old Hundredth

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

We sing to you, God, with thanksgiving, making melody to you with our praise. Use these gifts to spread your gospel near and far, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LORD’S SUPPER

Communion Voluntary

William F. Sherwin

“Break Thou the Bread of Life

744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken-heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1-2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974
MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894
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FESTAL SONG
SM
(this tune in a lower key, 815)

Benediction

The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Postlude

Duke Street
Arr. H. Alexander Matthews
"Jesus Shall Reign"

Liturgy taken from: *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion,*
Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1

Cover Art By Giovanni di Paolo