



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
26 July 2020 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary Prelude in E

Charles Camille Saint-Saëns

***Ringing of the Bell** *The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Christian K. Choi

O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's holy name.
Sing praises and tell of God's wonderful works.
Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
Remember the wonderful works God has done:
Celebrate God's mysterious and empowering ways.
Come, children of Jacob, let us worship God.
from Psalm 105

***Hymn 305** Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

Darwall's 148th

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!
Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,
Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!
Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,
As we in mission magnify the Crucified!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!
Come sing, O church in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

***Invitation to Confession**

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

***Prayer of Confession**

God of mystery, God of life, we imagine that we are capable judges of power and wisdom and goodness. We trust our own standards; we separate and categorize; we mark the performance of others. We fail to trust your power, hidden is all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes. Gracious God, hidden and manifold, transform our scant imaginations until we yield the judgements we trust to a love we cannot comprehend. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

***Declaration of Pardon** Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
The peace of Christ be with you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Response of Praise** Gloria Patri

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading Genesis 29:15-28

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife. Amen.

Music The Kingdom

André J. Thomas

Righteousness, peace, joy in the Holy Ghost, that's the Kingdom of God.
Don't you want to be a part of the Kingdom?
Come on everybody! Oh, yes, there's joy in the Kingdom!
Oh, yes, there's peace in the Kingdom! Oh, yes, there's love in the Kingdom!
The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.
We are part of the earth, and it is part of us.
The perfumed flowers are our sisters, the deer, the horse, the great eagle.
These are our brothers. All, things are connected. Rivers, our brothers,
Earth our mother, the earth is the Lord's.
Righteousness, peace, joy in the Holy Ghost, that's the Kingdom of God.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-47

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Amen.

Sermon The Kingdom of God Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Text: The kingdom of God is like..." Matthew 13:33a

Music Blessings David Mitchell

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.
So amid the conflict whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all.
Count your blessings, Angels will attend;
Hope and comfort give you to your journey's end.

The Church at Prayer

Prayer Response The Kingdom of God *Taizé*

The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Come, Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom.

The Lord's Prayer 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.

Introduction to the Offering

***Offertory Response** Doxology

***Prayer of Dedication** Holy Leaven Bearer, Mustard Seed Sower, Treasure Collector, we come with wonder and praise as we present the gifts of our lives and our labors. We long to receive your kneading, your seeking, your sowing in us that we may see with new eyes how you would have us receive your gifts and share our own more generously. Help us to live your justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Hymn 30** O God, in a Mysterious Way *Dundee*
O God, in a mysterious way great wonders you perform,
You plant your footsteps in the sea and ride upon the storm.
Deep in unfathomable mines of never-failing skill,
You treasure up your bright designs and work your sovereign will.
O fearful saints, fresh courage take. The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break in blessings on your head.
Our unbelief is sure to err and scan your work in vain.
You are your own interpreter, and you will make it plain.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** Sortie Denis Bédard

Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff
Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life
Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts
Eleanor VanDeventer, Soprano Lyle VanDeventer, Bass
Bob Fox, Videographer Elsie Fox, Director
Ted Babcock, Mary Peura, and Mike Nenaber, Ushers
John Stafford, Safety Team