

**Opening Voluntary** 

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

J. S. Bach

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Call to Worship

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Isaiah 40

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

God does not faint or grow weary; God's understanding is unsearchable.

God gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

But 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. Amen.

Friends, Let us worship God together.

Music Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

Immortal invisible, God only wise, in light in accessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty victorious thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might: thy justice, like mountains high soaring above; thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

Though reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light. Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight. All praise we would render; O help us to see `tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

Prayer of Confession Faithful Lord, as we venture through this season of Lent and

wonder when our time in the wilderness will end, our

tendency is to forget that we belong to you. Forgive us for not trusting you when we feel isolated and alone. Break the chains of doubt and free us from our own uncertainties. Help us to be born again into life of Christ, trusting that you have adopted us by grace into the family of faith. Hear now our silent prayer of

confession.

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

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you and those with whom we worship.

Leader: Thanks be to God. Amen.

First Scripture Reading Psalm 137:1-4

**Second Scripture Reading** Acts 16:19a-34

**Sermon** The Church Always Rev. Trajan I. McGill

"On the willows there we hung up our harps...How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? -Psalm 137:2, 4

Music Oboe Concerto: Adagio Benedetto Marcello

The Church at Prayer

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 Offering

#### Prayer of Dedication

In gratitude, O God, we come into your presence. For all that you have done for us, most especially, for your steadfast love in times of loneliness and isolation, and we offer our thanks and praise. We long to be the church, doing what is pleasing to you and being your vision through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

### Music Be Thou My Vision

Slane

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art; thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower; raise thou me heaven-ward, O Power of my power.

High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever be fall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## \*Charge and Benediction

\*Voluntary If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee J. S. Bach

# 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 T. Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts Lyle VanDeventer, bass Krista Steller, oboe Bob Fox, Videotographer

Brad Martin, Sound Engineer