

Order of Service

November 15, 2020

Welcome & Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude 305 *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!* DARWALL'S 148TH

Gathering Around the Word

*Call to Worship Ps. 90:1, 2

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations;

All: you have been our home throughout all the ages.

One: You were there before the world was made and will be forever.

All: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

*Hymn 32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE vrs. 1 & 3

*I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.*

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.

The moon shines full at God's command and all the stars obey.

There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known.

And clouds arise and tempests blow, by order from thy throne,

while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,

and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

Call to Confession 1 Thess. 5:9

God's love has transformed our outcomes: we are destined not for wrath, but rather for salvation.

Therefore, with confident assurance, let us confess our sin to the one who is eager to save.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Almighty God,

you have shown us the ways of justice

and nurtured us with love.

Even so, we have not lived according to your will.

When we are oppressed or unjustly accused,

we cling to fear and forget to trust in your deliverance.

When we are giddy with power and abuse the rights of others,

we hold tight to our privilege and forget your laws.

Have mercy on us, Lord,

for we are weak and prone to disobedience.

Hear our confession, and respond to us with kindness,
that we might turn to you again,
walk in the light,
and live in equity and peace;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Ps. 90:3, 12

Sisters and brothers, when we acknowledge our human limitations and turn to depend upon our everlasting God, we grow wise in heart through God's commands. We are freed to love another, because of this wonderful Good News:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***Response 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

Listening to the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Shine your light on your Word, O Lord; by your Spirit let us see your wonder. For your justice outruns our sense of fairness; your love overwhelms our deepest affections. Open our eyes, unstop our ears, and show us your most excellent way; for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

First Reading—Psalm 90:1-8, 12

Lord, you have been our help,
generation after generation.
²Before the mountains were born,
before you birthed the earth and the inhabited world—
from forever in the past
to forever in the future, you are God.
³You return people to dust,
saying, "Go back, humans,"
⁴because in your perspective a thousand years
are like yesterday past,
like a short period during the night watch.
⁵You sweep humans away like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning.
⁶True, in the morning it thrives, renewed,
but come evening it withers, all dried up.

⁷ Yes, we are wasting away because of your wrath;
we are paralyzed with fear on account of your rage.

⁸ You put our sins right in front of you,
set our hidden faults in the light from your face.

12 Teach us to number our days
so we can have a wise heart.

Anthem— 465 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* CONVERSE

Second Reading— Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five valuable coins,^[a] and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant’s ability. Then he left on his journey.

¹⁶ “After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money.

¹⁹ “Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained five more.’

²¹ “His master replied, ‘Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

²² “The second servant also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained two more.’

²³ “His master replied, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

²⁴ “Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven’t sown. You gather crops where you haven’t spread seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what’s yours.’

²⁶ “His master replied, ‘You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven’t sown and that I gather crops where I haven’t spread seed? ²⁷ In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. ²⁸ Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. ²⁹ Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don’t have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. ³⁰ Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.’

“People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

Sermon—

Responding to the Word

***Hymn 410** *God is Calling through the Whisper* W ZLOBIE LEZY vrs 1 & 2

*God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling -- can you hear? God is calling -- can you hear?*

*God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling -- and we hear! God is calling -- and we hear! (sic)*

***Affirmation of Faith** 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.**

Sharing our Prayers

Prayers of the People

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.*

***The Doxology 606**

*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.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

For all that you are and all that you do, we give you thanks, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. We wait in hope for the coming of your realm and offer these gifts to further your kingdom on earth; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

***Charge & Benediction**

***Blessing 541** *God Be with You Till We Meet Again* RANDOLPH
*God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.*

Postlude