

ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



NOVEMBER 22, 2020

Prelude

Call to Worship

L: We come together as the family of faith.

P: We assemble to honour the living God.

L: Through Christ we become God's holy household.

P: In Christ we are bonded together to be God's people.

L: Our worship is united into oneness by the Holy Spirit.

P: In communion with the Holy Spirit, let us celebrate our unity.

Hymn: We are one in the Spirit

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**1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity will one day be restored,**

Refrain **and they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love,
and they'll know we are Christians by our love,**

**2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news
that God is in our land, *Refrain***

**3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each one's dignity
and save each one's pride, *Refrain***

**4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, who is God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit who makes us one, *Refrain***

Prayer — The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

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, for ever and ever. Amen

Scripture Readings

Responsive Reading: Psalm 133 refrain 2



O look and won - der how good it is!

- 1 How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
- 2 **It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.**
- 3 It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
**For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
of life forevermore.**

First Reading: John 17: 13–26

But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

“Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

Second Reading: 1 John 3: 11–23

For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We must not be like Cain who was from the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not be astonished, brothers and sisters, that the world hates you.

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death. All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them. We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us — and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet

refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

****Hymn: Your hand, O God, has guided 477**

- 1. Your hand, O God, has guided your flock from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written full clear on every page;
our forebears knew your goodness,
and we their deeds record,
and both of this bear witness,
“One church, one faith, one Lord.”**
- 2. Your heralds brought glad tidings to greatest, as to least;
they summoned all to hasten
to share the great King’s feast,
and this was all their teaching, in every deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming,
“One church, one faith, one Lord.”**
- 3. And we, shall we be faithless?
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict, and cast away our crown?
Not so; in God’s deep counsels some better thing is stored:
and we will maintain, unflinching,
“One church, one faith, one Lord.”**

- 4. Your mercy will not fail us, nor leave your work undone;
with your right hand to help us, the victory shall be won,
and then by earth and heaven your name shall be adored,
and this shall be their anthem,
“One church, one faith, one Lord.”**

Sermon United by Love

Litany of Reconciliation*

All: All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

L: The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class:

P: Father forgive.

L: The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own:

P: Father forgive.

L: The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth:

P: Father forgive.

L: Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others:

P: Father forgive.

L: Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless and the refugee:

P: Father forgive.

L: The lust which dishonours the bodies of women, men and children:

P: Father forgive.

L: The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God.

P: Father forgive.

All: Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

****Hymn: The church's one foundation** 479

1. **The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are his new creation by water and the word;
from heaven he came and sought us
that we might ever be his living servant people,
by his own death set free.**
2. **Called forth from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
our charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth,
one holy name professing and at one table fed,
to one hope we are pressing, by Christ's own Spirit led.**
5. **We now on earth have union with God the Three-in-One,
and share, through faith, communion
with those whose rest is won, —
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.**

Announcements

Offering

Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow 830

**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.**

Prayer of Dedication

****Hymn: For the healing of the nations** 736

1. **For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords. To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.**

2. **Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.**
3. **All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned,
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.**
4. **You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind,
that, by our response and service,
earth its destiny may find.**

Benediction / Postlude

**Our thanks to Pastor Dan Chook Reid,
organist Brenda Beckingham,
and soloist Sharon Haidenger.**

Hymn 471

Words and Music: Peter Scholtes Harmony: Richard D. Wetzel
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Hymn 736

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