

GATHERING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PRELUDE

“I Surrender All”

(arr. Phillip Keveren)

Rick Robertson, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Shout with joy to God, all the earth!

People: Sing to the glory of His name; offer Him glory and Praise!

Leader: Come and see what God has done,

People: How awesome His works on our behalf!

Leader: Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard.

People: He has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.

***Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this
barren land; I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me
with Thy powerful hand; Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.***

***Open now the crystal fountain, Whence the healing
stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloudy pillar Lead me
all my journey through; Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield, Be Thou still my strength and
shield.***

***When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious
fears subside; Death of death, and hell's destruction, Land me
safe on Canaan's side; Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee, I will ever give to Thee.***

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

***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.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PERSONAL AND PRIVATE COFFESSION OF SIN

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we make no pretense about our lives. We forget, even deny, that we were created with wonder and delight in our souls. We go through life anxious and serious, seeking to get ahead, striving to make ends meet. We rush and hurry, fill up our calendars. We wonder where is the joy, our rest, and a sense of delight. Remind us that we are loved for who we are, just as we are. In your acceptance, we find delight. In your blessing, we find peace. Let us live our days in grateful praise. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn #467

“How Great Thou Art”

***Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!***

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 2: 14-18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

*The love of God is greater far Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star, And reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled, And pardoned from his sin.*

Refrain:

*O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall for evermore endure The saints' and angels' song.*

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger. When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

THE SERMON

Dr. John Hardie

“When God Became Our Brother”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*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.**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN #240

“Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord”

*Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, Grace that exceeds our
Sin and our guilt, Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.*

Refrain:

*Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that is greater than all our sin.*

*Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace, Freely bestowed on
All who believe; All who are longing to see His face,
Will you this moment His grace receive?*

Repeat Refrain

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn # 2223

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

*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:

*And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.*

*POSTLUDE

“Gratitude”

(Rick Robertson)

Rick Robertson, piano