

The Lord's Day

July 4, 2021 at 10:30 AM

*We welcome you to worship today. It is a privilege to have you as our guest.
As you join us today, begin to worship quietly with personal prayer.
Please turn off your cell phone and turn your hearts and minds toward God.*

We prepare for worship

Take a moment and meditate on this as you prepare for worship...

O Eternal God, through whose mighty power our fathers won their liberties of old; Grant we beseech thee, that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain these liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for Independence Day

Prelude

Airioso

J. S. Bach
Dr. Kenneth Dean, Director of Music

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

Pastor Bell

We praise our great God

Call to Worship

Isaiah 55:1-3a (ESV)

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live...

Hymn No. 710

God of Our Fathers

George William Warren

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past; in this free land by thee our lot is cast;
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay; thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase, thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way, lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

Invocation

We embrace Christ our Savior

Confession of Sin (**unison**)

based on Psalm 6

Holy God, Lord most gracious! Rebuke us not in your anger, nor chasten us in your wrath! Holy you are, and we cannot stand in your presence. Yet you have called us to come to you. We feel unworthy, for we have failed you again and again. We feel like running away, yet you keep calling us. Have mercy on us, O God. Have mercy! Deliver us for the sake of your steadfast love. Holy God, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us for the sake of your Son, who died to free us from our sins. To him be honor and glory. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

1 John 2:1-3, 5b, 6 (ESV)

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Confession of Faith (**unison**)

Westminster Confession of Faith, XX.1

The liberty which Christ has purchased for believers under the gospel consists in their freedom from the guilt of sin, the condemning wrath of God, the curse of the moral law; and, in their being delivered from the present evil world, bondage to Satan, and dominion of sin; from the evil of afflictions, the sting of death, the victory of the grave, and everlasting damnation; as also, in their free access to God, and their yielding obedience unto him, not out of slavish fear, but a child-like love and willing mind. . .

Hymn No. 713

Great King of Nations, Hear Our Prayer

St. Anne

Great King of nations, hear our prayer, while at your feet we fall,
And humbly, with united cry, to you for mercy call.

The guilt is ours, but grace is yours, O turn us not away;
But hear us from your lofty throne, and help us when we pray.

Our fathers' sins were manifold, and ours no less we own,
Yet wondrously from age to age your goodness has been shown.

When dangers, like a stormy sea, beset our country round,
To you we looked, to you we cried and help in you was found.

With one consent we meekly bow beneath your chast'ning hand,
And, pouring forth confession meet, mourn with our mourning land.

With pitying eye behold our need, and thus we lift our prayer;
Correct us with your judgments, Lord, then let your mercy spare.

The Prayers of God's People and the Lord's Prayer (**in unison**)

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

The Doxology (Hymnal, pg. 731) and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Adagio in A-flat

Mendelssohn

We hear God speak in Word and Sacrament

Scripture Reading

John 8:31-59 (ESV)

³² ...and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Sermon

“The Freedom Gift”

The Reverend Stuart Jones

Hymn (vv. 1, 2)

We Come as Guests Invited

Hans Leo Hassler
(*O Word of God Incarnate*)

We come as guests invited when Jesus bids us dine,
His friends on earth united to share the bread and wine;
The bread of life is broken, the wine is freely poured
For us, in solemn token of Christ our dying Lord.

We eat and drink, receiving from Christ the grace we need,
And in our hearts believing on Him by faith we feed;
With wonder and thanksgiving for love that knows no end,
We find in Jesus living our ever present friend.

The Lord’s Supper

Pastor Bell

We respond to God’s grace

Hymn (v. 3)

We Come as Guests Invited

Hans Leo Hassler
(*O Word of God Incarnate*)

One bread is ours for sharing, one single, fruitful vine,
Our fellowship declaring renewed in bread and wine—
Renewed, sustained and given by token, sign and word,
The pledge and seal of heaven, the love of Christ our Lord.

Benediction and Three-Fold Amen (**Hymnal, pg 740**)

Danish

Postlude

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Melita

A NEW Photo-Directory is coming. Pastor Ceselsky will be reviewing information and taking family pictures for the directory. We would really like to have 100% participation.