



~The Gathering~

Prelude

Celestia

Wood

Tami Newsom, organ

Music: Dale Wood © Sacred Music Press, Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-735032. All rights reserved.

Greeting

Rev. Matt Nieman

Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Nothing can separate us from God's love.

Let us worship God.

Opening Hymn #483

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

Mit Freuden Zart

**Sing praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation;
With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!**

**What God's almighty power hath made, God's gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of God's might, Lo! all is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory!**

**The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing,
An ever present help and stay, our peace, and joy, and blessing;
As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!**

**Thus all my gladsome way along, I sing aloud Thy praises
That all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and body take your part:
To God all praise and glory!**

Words: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675, Trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864, Music: Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566,
The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press. Public domain.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we have turned away from you and have not lived with upright hearts. Forgive us for failing to follow you. Guide our feet to walk in your ways and serve your world to the glory of your name. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Passing of the Peace

~The Word~

Prayer for Illumination

John Begovich

Enlightening God, the unfolding of your Word gives light and provides wisdom to all who seek your truth. Open our minds and hearts by the presence of your Holy Spirit, that the mystery of your heavenly realm is made evident here on earth. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Romans 8:26-35, 37-39

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 128

Dr. Angela Batey, cantor

Daw

The Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the psalm, with lyrics 'The Lord bless you from Zi - on' written below it. The second staff continues the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'all the days of your life.' written below it. The melody is simple and melodic, using quarter and eighth notes.

Happy are they all who fear the Lord, and who follow in his ways!
You shall eat the fruit of your labor; happiness and prosperity shall be yours. **(R)**

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house,
your children like olive shoots round about your table.
The man who fear the Lord shall thus indeed be blessed. **(R)**

The Lord bless you from Zion, and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.
May you live to see your children's children; may peace be upon Israel. **(R)**

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. and Music: Kevin R. Hackett, © 2008 Church Publishing Incorporated.
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Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“Small Seeds and Hidden Treasure”

Rev. Matt Nieman

~The Response~

Affirmation of Faith – from the *Confession of 1967*

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So, to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

The Anthem

This is Jesus
Joey Nieman

We Are Messengers

Call for the Offering

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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 Sending~

Closing Hymn #441

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord
Led by FPC Chancel Choir

St. Thomas

**I love Thy kingdom, Lord, the house of Thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved with His own precious blood.**

**I love Thy church, O God; her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye, and graven on Thy hand.**

**For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.**

**Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.**

**Sure as Thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be given
The brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heaven.**

Words: Timothy Dwight, 1800, and Music: *The Universal Psalmist*, 1763, Adapt. Aaron Williams, 1770,
The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press. Public domain.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Mitten wir im Leben sind

Moore

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