

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

June 18, 2023

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You. In Your Holy name, O God, we pray. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"Psalm 100"

Justin Heinrich Knecht (1752-1817)

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Our relationships with our fathers are complicated.

People: For some of us, our father's love is like God's love -- too deep, too long, too wide, too strong to measure.

Leader: Some of our dads are here; some were never here.

People: For some of us, God's love fills in the empty spaces our fathers left behind.

Leader: All of us are shaped by the relationship or lack of relationship with our fathers.

All: On this day when we remember what it means to have a father or be a father, we recognize the importance of fathers in our communities. We pledge as a congregation to love and nurture the fathers among us so that they will manifest the love of God in all that they do.

***Hymn**

“Be Thou My Vision”

#450

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

Leader: When we do not follow our heavenly Father’s calling,

People: we sin and need to be forgiven.

Leader: Therefore, let us turn to God for forgiveness, using our prayer of confession.

***Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

O God, Father that you are, you know what is right for us, but too often we only want our way or no way, instead of your way. Have mercy upon us when we turn away from you. Forgive us when we do not realize your fatherly love and direction for us. Have mercy upon us indeed, and teach us anew how to follow you, Father that you are. We pray this through your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.
(Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

The Lord is like ... So be at peace: you are forgiven!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

***Response Hymn**

“As the Deer”

#626

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Genesis 18:1-15

Duet

"Largo and Allegro"

G. P. Telemann, 1681-1767

Second Scripture Reading

Genesis 21:1-7

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Having Children Is No Laughing Matter, or Is It?”

Pastor Steve Watters

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

***Hymn**

“This is My Father’s World”

#370

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

After hearing Lord in your mercy, please respond with - **Hear our 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.

Invitation to Offering

***Response**

Doxology

#606

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sending of God's People

*Closing Hymn

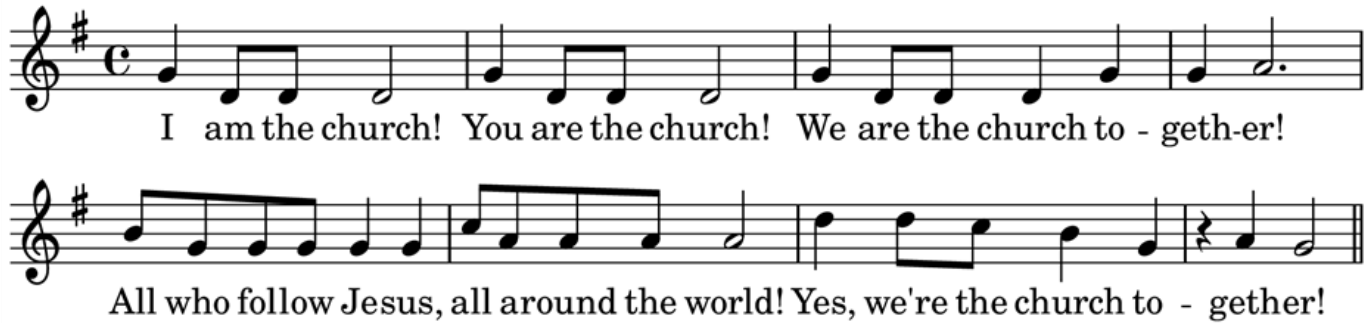
“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

#8

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response

“We Are the Church”



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!".

Words and Music: Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh
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*Postlude

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

arr. Anna Laura Page

Pastor: Steve Watters

Liturgist: Joyce Lloyd

Acolyte: Darren Cox

Flowers: The Morlocks

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Flutist: Nik Engelhart

Oboist: Thomas Lloyd

The flowers on the altar are given by the Morlocks, in celebration of their 31st wedding anniversary.

Joyce Lloyd and her husband, Tom, moved from Pittsburgh, PA to London, OH in 1974. They had just graduated from college and were newlyweds. Joyce and Tom were anxious to start their new life together and to start new jobs. London turned out to be a very welcoming town. They were able to find new friends and a new church family.

Joyce has a twin sister, an older sister, and an older brother, who live across the US, giving them a chance to visit some beautiful cities. Joyce is fortunate to have her brother-in-law, John, and sister-in-law, Margaret, living nearby.

Retirement is the best job Joyce has ever had, allowing her to enjoy more time with Tom, their dog, Sasha, and their cat, Meow Mix. Even in retirement there never seems to be enough time to be involved in as many volunteer projects as she would like. Joyce enjoys her time with friends, and being outside walking the dog or working in the yard. Goal in life: "Make me an instrument of your peace."