

Order for Worship

August 9, 2020

Prelude

Prelude on THAXTED

Michael Frank

Gustav Holst/arr. Harrison Oxley

Welcome

Don Ewing

Call to Worship (Psalm 107:1-2 adapted)

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

People: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so for God redeemed them from the hand of the foe....

Leader: Whether near or far we are beneficiaries of God's mercies.

People: Together, we worship the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Confession

Steve Wilson

Lord God, there are moments in our lives when we discover that we are not the people we want to be. Neither are we completely the people you call us to be. At times, we hurt others deeply by our actions; at times, we wound by our failure to act.

....a time for silent prayer

Such knowledge can lead to despair, but we have hope. Because of Your grace, You continue to work in the events in our lives to transform us. Help us recognize and respond to opportunities You provide for growth and maturity in love, that we might have the heart and mind of Christ and the fullness of Christian joy. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: "Forgiveness is not just a matter of words;

People rather, it opens us to a new way of life.

Leader: Forgiveness is not just a legal transaction between God and individuals;

People rather, it restores community between them, as well as among individuals and groups that have been alienated from one another."¹

Leader: Believe the Good News: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and reconciled to one another.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Don Ewing

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in

¹ Book of Confessions Study Edition, Geneva Press, Louisville, KY, 1999, p. 317

Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

A Ministry of Reconciliation

Steve Wilson

Hymn of Response

Please join in singing.

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Sebastian Temple/arr. Alfred V. Fedak

**Make me a channel of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love.
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in You.**

**Make me a channel of Your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.**

**O, Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.**

**Make me a channel of Your peace. It is pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

- based on a Prayer of St. Francis/Sebastian Temple

Faith Community & Other Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Don Ewing

Litany for Reconciliation

Don Ewing

Across the barriers that divide race from race;

Reconcile us, O Christ, by Your cross.

Across the barriers that divide rich from poor;

Reconcile us, O Christ, by Your cross.

Across the barriers that divide people of different cultures:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by Your cross.

Across the barriers that divide Christians:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by Your cross.

Across the barriers that divide men and women, young and old:

Reconcile us, O Christ, by Your cross.

Confront us, O Christ, with the hidden prejudices and fears that deny and betray our prayers.

Enable us to see the causes of strife, remove from us all senses of superiority.

Teach us to grow in unity with all God's children.

To the honor of Your name: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Benediction

Steve Wilson

Postlude

Michael Frank

To God Be the Glory

William Howard Doane/arr. Robert J. Powell

To reserve a seat please visit OPC website at
www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org or call the church office
at 412.828.5770.