

Order for Worship

July 26, 2020

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision

Michael Frank

arrs. Dan Forrest and Douglas E. Wagner

Welcome

Steve Wilson

Call to Worship

Leader: Called to be branches in Christ's body, we yearn to be connected to the vine.

People: Called to be mustard bushes offering shade to God's creatures, we search for places to plant the seeds of faith.

Leader: Called to be growing with God in the midst of this world's painful questions, we seek God's nurturing presence. Let us worship God.

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Confession

Don Ewing

God of all days, we confess the times we fail to involve ourselves in planting seeds of faith, peace and justice in the lives of others; the times when our personal agendas become more important than Your Kingdom; the times when our lives become so entangled with the values of the world that we forget what You have said and done and promised.

....a time for silent prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen our faith that it may expand, grow strong and vigorous, that we may bear the fruit of Your mercy, justice, love and Your undying life. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Prayer for Illumination

Ronnie Bailey

Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-51

Don Ewing

³¹ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

The Hidden Kingdom

Don Ewing

Hymn of Response

Organ

God Bless Your Church with Strength!

The Hymnal, No. 418 using tune: *DIADEMATA*

*God, bless Your church with strength! Wherever we may be,
upbuild Your servants as we work in common ministry.*

*Urge us from fledging faith to venture and to soar through open skies,
to sing the praise of Christ whom we adore.*

*God, bless Your church with life! May all our branches thrive,
unblemished, wholesome, bearing fruit, abundantly alive.*

*From You, one holy vine, in freedom may we grow;
sustain us in our mission, Lord, Your love and peace to show.*

*God, bless Your church with hope! Despite chaotic days,
may we in chaos shine to light a pathway through life's maze.*

*May justice be our aim, and kindness ours to share,
in humbleness O may we walk, assured our God is there!*

- John A Dalles

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

Steve Wilson

Benediction

Don Ewing

Postlude

God of Grace

Michael Frank
arr. Paul Manz

To reserve a seat, please visit OPC website at

www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org

or call the church office at

412.828.5770.