



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Labor Day Weekend
6 September 2020 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary

Fanfare for the Common Man

Aaron Copeland

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Christian K. Choi

Praise the Lord!

*Sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful,
for the Lord takes pleasure in the people.*

Let the faithful sing for joy.

Psalm 149:1, 4, 5

***Hymn 645**

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 has 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 toilsome 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!

***Invitation to Confession**

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, while we were still slaves to sin, you loved us and died for our salvation. Yet we still can be found worshipping the false gods of this world, forgetting that you are Lord. We have not loved you with our whole heart, nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not shown mercy to others as you have shown mercy to us. Forgive us yet again, we pray in Christ's name, and set us on the right path, together, reconciled with one another and with you. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

***Declaration of Pardon** Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response of Praise Gloria Patri

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading Exodus 12:1-14

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ² This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴ If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷ They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.

¹¹ This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Music Élévation

Louis Vierne

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:15-20

¹⁵ “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Sermon The Weight of Letting Go

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

“...whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Matthew 18:18b

Music Be Still My Soul

Tom Fettke, arr.

Be still, my soul! The Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In every change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul! The waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary;
When troubles come and my heart burdened be;
Then I am still and wait here in the silence
Until you come and sit awhile with me.
You raise me up so I can stand on mountains.
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas.
I am strong when I am on your shoulders
You raise me up to more than I can be.

The Church at Prayer

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.

Introduction to the Offering

***Offertory Response** Doxology

***Prayer of Dedication** Ever-present God, as Jesus promised to be among us when two or three gather in his name, be among us now, and make these offerings instruments of your love and justice. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray; Amen.

***Hymn 719** Come, Labor On

Ora Labora

Come, labor on. Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain
while all around us waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the Master say "Go work today."

Come, labor on. Claim the high calling angels cannot share:
to young and old the gospel gladness bear.
Redeem the time; its hours to swiftly fly. The night draws nigh.

Come, labor on. Cast off all gloomy doubt and faithless fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here.
Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill God's righteous will.

Come, labor on. No time for rest, till glows the western sky.
till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,
and a glad sound comes with the setting sun, "Well done, well done!"

*Charge and Benediction

***Voluntary** Tuba Tune

Reginald Porter-Brown

(*) The congregation is invited to stand

Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life

Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts

Jay Kennerly, Tenor Lyle VanDeventer, Bass

Bob Fox, Videographer Elsie Fox, Director

Rich Canady, Amanda Kurmann, Julie McDonough, Ushers

Mary Ray, Safety Team