



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
January 9, 2022

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Thanks Be to Thee

Handel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Here in this place, there are no foreigners,

for the love of God welcomes us all.

Here in this place, there are no outsiders,

for the love of God embraces us all.

Here in this place, there are no strangers,

for the love of God unites us all.

Come, let us worship God in unity and love.

*HYMN No. 401 (v.1-4) GLORY TO GOD

Here in This Place

Here in this place the new light is streaming;

Now is the darkness vanished away;

See in this space our fears and our dreamings

Brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;

Gather us in, the blind and the lame;

Call to us now, and we shall awaken;

We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery.

We are the old who yearn for your face.

We have been sung throughout all of history,

Called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;

Gather us in, the proud and the strong;

Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;

Give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water;
Here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
Not in some heaven, light years away:
Here in this place the new light is shining;
Now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

Knowing that our God walks with us in our failings, our struggles, our regrets, and our hope, we now come humbly before God to ask for mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, in the coming silence bring to our minds and hearts our actions and words that have hurt, discouraged, and negatively impacted the lives of others. Give us courage to take the prompting of your Holy Spirit seriously today to confess, to do better, to seek reconciliation with those whom you have directed us to.

Silent Prayer

Today we especially confess that we failed to offer welcome and hospitality to those in need:

God, have mercy on us and your people.

For the times we lack courage to actively seek to end poverty, violence and bigotry:

God, have mercy on us and your people.

For the times we give in to despair when confronted with the wrongs of our world:

God, have mercy on us and on your people.

For the times we allow our fears to triumph over the call to solidarity:

God, have mercy on us and on your people.

Merciful God, receive our petitions. Heal the brokenness in our hearts and in our world.

Amen.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

“Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”
-Hebrews 13:1-2

*HYMN No. 298 (V.1-2)

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We would gladly trust God's Word;
And our lives reflect thanksgiving
For the goodness of our Lord.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

*HYMN No. 386 (V.1-5)

O for a World

O for a world where everyone
Respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done
With justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared
And misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared,
Equality achieved.

We welcome one world family
And struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity
And gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
The foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong,
Who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more,
And all but love will cease.

*DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

The Psalms urge us to give thanks to God at all times, for everything God has provided. In gratitude, we offer to God a portion of what God has given to us. Please leave your offering in the plate in the back of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.

*RESPONSE

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Doxology

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

As you have been loved – love. As you have been welcomed – welcome.

As you have been fed – feed. As you have received – give.

And may the boundless love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit we always with you. Amen.

POSTLUDE

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

arr. Callahan

~::~~

Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

Darcel Hayes-Bridges, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Kimberly Rausch, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

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Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

“Now after they (the wisemen) had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”