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Music Director: Dr Steven Webb
November 19, 2023

When the truth get's buried deep beneath a thousand years of sleep, time demands a turnaround.. And once again the truth is found.

- George Harrison

Gathering Song

We are One

VU 402

We are one as we come,
as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips
there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing,
as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace
as we meet, together in this place.

We are one as we share,
as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand
there's a sense that God is here.
We are one as we care,
as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace
as we pray together in this place.

We are one as we hear,
as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive
there's a sense that God is light.
We are one as we share,
as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways
as we move together in this place.

Welcome

Worship Call

Come! Share the joy of the creator!

Delight in God's goodness.

Praise God who gives each person special gifts to be nurtured and shared.

God, we thank you for these gifts.

Come, let us worship God who entrusts us with so much.

God, we celebrate your love and trust in us.

Let us worship together.

Candle Lighting

Acknowledging the Land

Sing

Behold, Behold, I Make all Things New

MV 115

Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)
I make all things new,
beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)
I make all things new, my promise is true,
for I am Christ the way.

Opening Prayer

God of mercy and justice, you have given us gifts and talents to be used in your world. You have entrusted us to use them well and we are grateful that you are with us in this work. Help us remember not to denigrate their value or become so fearful of failure that we don't engage our talents and gifts in the world.

Help us to trust in the gifts we are given and trust your guidance as we use them. Forgive us for those times that we are fearful, stubborn, apathetic, or indifferent to those around us. May we live each day in service to the world. Amen

And Now For Something Completely Different

Sing

Bathe Me in Your Light

MV 82

Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.

Bathe me in your love, O Source of Awe and Wonder;
help me walk the sacred path of harmony and peace.
May I be attentive to the musings of your presence,
drinking from the well of hope that brings the heart release.

Bathe me in your grace, O One of Spirit's longing;
teach me of your gentle ways that fill the soul with strength.
Guide me on the pilgrimage that leads to truth and wholeness,
Fill me with your promise of a love that knows no length.

Prayer of Illumination

Help us O God, to come to you with open lives to receive your words. May we give them new life as we listen to what you have to say. Open our hearts as we embark on this journey with each other and with you. Amen

The Happiness Box

Ancient Reading

Hosea 4:1-13, 5:1

The first reading is from the prophet Hosea (chapter 4 verses 1-13 and chapter 5 verse 1). Hosea wrote in the 8th century BCE and his writing is part of both Jewish and Islamic prophetic traditions. It was written at a time when Israel has split into 2 kingdoms. Be forewarned - Hosea is also known as "The Prophet of Doom" in the Jewish Talmud.

Hear the word of God, O people of Israel!

God has brought charges against you, saying:

"There is no faithfulness, no kindness,
no knowledge of God in your land.

You make vows and break them;
you kill and steal and commit adultery.

There is violence everywhere—
one murder after another.

That is why your land is in mourning,
and everyone is wasting away.

Even the wild animals, the birds of the sky,
and the fish of the sea are disappearing.

"Don't point your finger at someone else
and try to pass the blame!

They offer sacrifices to idols on the mountaintops.

They go up into the hills to burn incense
in the pleasant shade of oaks, poplars, and terebinth trees.

O foolish people! You refuse to understand,
so you will be destroyed.
“Hear this, you priests.
Pay attention, you leaders of Israel.
Listen, you members of the royal family.
Judgment has been handed down against you.

Gift of Music

Folksong

Op. 12 No. 5

Edvard Grieg

Ancient Reading

Matthew 25: 14-40

A parable that calls us to consider how we use our resources.

¹⁴ “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a person going on a long trip. They called together their servants and entrusted their money to them while gone. ¹⁵ They gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. The person then left on their trip.

¹⁶ “The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. ¹⁷ The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the money.

¹⁹ “After a long time the person returned from their trip and called the servants to give an account of how they had used the money. ²⁰ The servant to whom had been entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘You gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’

²¹ “The person was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together.’

²² “The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘You gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’

²³ “The person said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

²⁴ “Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘I knew you were a harsh person, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. ²⁵ I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’

²⁶ “But the person replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, ²⁷ why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

²⁸ ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. ²⁹ To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. ³⁰ Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶ I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’

³⁷ “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘When did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? ³⁹ When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

⁴⁰ “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’

Reflection

About Face

Sing

Spirit Open My Heart

MV 79

Refrain: Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender.

Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory.

Responding to God and Community

Sing Response

Listen God is Calling

MV 97

One: Listen

All: Listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

Prayers of the People

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen

Sing

For the Fruit of All Creation

VU 227

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God

Benediction & Commissioning

Sing Blessing

Come Touch our Hearts

MV 12

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn injustice,
to seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.