

Old Presbyterian Meeting House

SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

August 25, 2019
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost
10 a.m.

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

*We invite you to still
your hearts and minds
during the Prelude in
preparation for
worship, praying:*

*God of power, may the
boldness of your Spirit
transform us, the
gentleness of your
Spirit lead us, and the
gifts of your Spirit be
our goal and our
strength. Amen.*

*Please turn off all
cellphones. We ask
that no photos be
taken during the
service.*

▲ *Stand as you
are able.*

PRELUDE

"A Church Prelude" from *12 Pieces for Organ* (1900)

John Stainer
1840–1901

WELCOME

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us worship God!

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Katherine A. Stanford

Let us worship the One who nourishes us,
who satisfies us in parched places and makes our bones strong.
Let us worship the One who calls us,
who leads us to compassion and draws us nearer to justice.
Let us worship the One who creates us,
who forms and reforms us in the image of our maker.

▲ HYMN OF PRAISE 386

Come, Worship God
Psalm 95

O QUANTA QUALIA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You are faithful, O God of mercy. Forgive us when our faith withers, our passion grows weary, and our focus wanes. You are loving, O God of mercy. Forgive us when our love is too shallow, our compassion too slow, our status too important. You are the creator, O God of mercy. Forgive us when we fear that you have stopped creating, stopped calling, stopped reforming. Convict us, enliven us, and lead us to know the depth of your steadfast love. Hear now the prayers we bring to you in silence ...

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 578

O Lord, Have Mercy

ORÉ PORIAJÚ
VEREKÓ

**O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy;
O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.
O Christ, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy;
O Christ, have mercy, have mercy on us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

▲ ACT OF PRAISE 591

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

HALLE, HALLE

**Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

▲ PASSING THE PEACE

Stand, as you are able, and greet your neighbors, saying, "**The peace of Christ be with you.**"
Respond by saying, "**And also with you.**"

GOD'S WORD TO US

ANTHEM

"God so loved the world" from *The Crucifixion*
Text from John 3:16–17

John Stainer

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Luke 13:10–17

Pew Bible, p. 71

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Bridges to Worship will resume in September.*

Blessing of the Backpacks,
Briefcases, and Baby Bags

▲ HYMN OF PREPARATION 796

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

LAND OF REST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Sabbath Liberations

Dr. Robert R. Laha

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Excerpted from *A Declaration of Faith*, 1977

Christ teaches us to go beyond the legal requirements in serving and helping our neighbor, to treat our neighbor's needs as our own, to care passionately for the other's good, to share what we have. It is part of our discipline to live in simplicity, avoiding greed and luxury that threaten our neighbor's survival. We are obligated to speak the truth in love, to listen with patience and openness, to love our enemies, to accept the risk and pain which love involves.

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND INVITATIONS TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Steal Away
Michael Mentzel, baritone

Spiritual, arr. Harry T. Burleigh
1866–1949

▲ DOXOLOGY 607

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

▲ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

▲ HYMN OF DEDICATION 547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

AR HYD Y NOS

▲ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

▲ RESPONSE 600

Amen

AMEN

▲ POSTLUDE

Toccata on a Welsh Tune (improvisation)

Steven Seigart
Born 1990

Please remain in your pews until the postlude begins.

Notes on the music

Today's very generically named but charming prelude and breathtaking anthem come from English composer Sir John Stainer, who is generally known today only for the latter choral excerpt from an obscure and seldom performed oratorio called *The Crucifixion*. Stainer's music is lush and full of the Victorian Romantic-era sentiment that came to dominate what is now called the Second Golden Age of English church music (the first was the late Renaissance with composers like Byrd, Gibbons, and Tallis). We'll also have music by composer and singer Harry T. Burleigh, who, like Florence Price (who we heard from a few weeks ago), came from humble upbringings to study and sing with the most prominent musicians of the time. Burleigh found his mentor and collaborator in Czech composer Antonin Dvorak, who at the time was teaching at the now-defunct National Conservatory of Music in New York City. It is said by some that the "Negro melodies" on which parts of Dvorak's *New World Symphony* are based may be tunes Burleigh taught to his mentor.

Notes for Visitors

We encourage you to speak with an usher or to visit opmh.org to learn more about our congregation. During the program year (roughly September–May), we hold worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m., with education classes for all ages at 9:30 a.m.

Today, childcare for children under four is available in the Education Building from 9–11:30 a.m. Please ask an usher for directions.

