



November 8, 2020

GATHERING

Heather Hinton

GREETING

Darren Cushman Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diane Gattone

PRELUDE

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

arr. E. L. Diemer

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O God, our help in ages past

People: shelter us in the house of mercy.

Leader: O God, our help in ages past

People: guide us to the home of endless love.

OPENING HYMN #117

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

***Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come;
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!***

***Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all who breathe away;
they fly, forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.***

***Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be Thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**God of endless mercy,
as the scriptures are read
enlighten the eyes of our hearts
that we might see the living hope
of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, beloved, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from

heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho

arr. M. Hayes
Kate Roberts, Soloist

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, and the walls come tumblin' down.

You may talk about your man of Gideon, you may talk about your man of Saul.

There's none like good ol' Joshua at the battle of Jericho. *Refrain*

Up to the walls of Jericho he marched with a spear in hand. "Go blow them rams' horns,"
Joshua cried, "Cause the battle is in my hand."

Then the lamb ram sheep horns begin to blow, the trumpets begin to sound.

Joshua commanded the children to shout, and the walls come tumblin' down. *Refrain*

Oh Joshua! Jericho! And the walls come tumblin' down!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Psalm 78:1-7

Leader: My friends, I beg you to listen as I teach.

I will give instruction and explain the mystery
of what happened long ago.

**People: These are things we learned from our ancestors,
and we will tell them to the next generation.**

Leader: We won't keep secret the glorious deeds
and the mighty miracle of the Lord.

**People: God gave the Law to Jacob's descendants,
the people of Israel.**

Leader: And God told our ancestors to teach their children,

**People: so that each new generation would know the Law
and tell it to the next.**

Leader: Then they would trust God
and obey Lord's teachings,

People: without forgetting anything God had done.

HYMN OF PRAYER #375

There Is a Balm in Gilead

**Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to save a sin-sick soul.**

***Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain.
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. Refrain***

***Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
who, if you ask for knowledge, will never fail to lend. Refrain***

***If you can't preach like Peter, if you can't pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus, who died to save us all. Refrain***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Darren Cushman Wood

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 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,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

DOXOLOGY #94

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

UPDATE ON STEWARDSHIP

Grafton Balko

SECOND LESSON

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people:

‘Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many....Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve God in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.’

Then the people answered:

‘Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. God protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord who is our God.’

But Joshua said to the people:

‘You cannot serve the Lord, because the Lord is a holy and jealous God who will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then God will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.’

And the people said to Joshua, ‘No, we will serve the Lord!’ Then Joshua said to the people, ‘You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.’ And they said, ‘We are witnesses.’ He said, ‘Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.’ The people said to Joshua, ‘The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.’ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.’

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Make Up Your Mind

Dr. Leah Gunning Francis

*Dr. Leah Gunning Francis is Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty,
and Associate Professor of Christian Education and Practical Theology at Christian Theological Seminary.*

HYMN OF DEDICATION #519

Lift Every Voice and Sing

***Lift ev'ry voice and sing 'til earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on 'til victory is won.***

***Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past 'til now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.***

***God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.***

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

In Christ There is No East or West

arr. M. Corl

*The flowers on the altar today are given for the glory of God by Dotti Gerner McClure and Paul McClure
in loving memory of Henry Gerner whose birthday was November 18,
and in celebration of Dotti's son Mark, whose birthday was October 31.*

*The Worship & Arts committee wants to thank Patty Hefner
for gifting us with altar visuals reminding us of the goodness of God at this time of year.*

This week's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood, *Senior Pastor*
Diane Gattone, *Pastor of Care & Nurture*
John Hague & Dick Tiller-Lutchman, *Audio Visual*
Heather Hinton, *Organist*
Kate Roberts, *Soloist*

Daily Living in the COVID Era video link is
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewMyFFXyNt0&t=2s>
OR you can access on the North website
in Livestreaming under Care & Nurture.