



January 24, 2021

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

arr. S. Tucker

GREETING

Sunil Kotian

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Leave behind your faults and failures.

People: Christ calls us to live again.

Leader: Leave behind your isolation and indifference.

People: Christ calls us to love again.

Leader: Leave behind your discouragement and disappointments.

People: Christ calls us to hope again.

OPENING HYMN #209

Blessed be the God of Israel

***Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.***

***The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.***

***On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

John Drake

**Spirit of truth,
as the scriptures are read,
revive our spirits,
reshape our minds,
and reform our habits,
with the life of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

Heaven's Embrace

S. DeFord
Ron Berry, soloist

When shadows gather, when shades of night descend,
I kneel to lay my burdens at the Father's feet again.
I offer up my sorrow, entrust to him my grief
and at his touch my heart is filled with peace.

*Borne upon a prayer, my soul is lifted up.
Enfolded in the arms of everlasting love, cradled in his kindness,
Sheltered by his grace, like a child in heaven's embrace.*

When heartaches linger and tears I cannot stay,
I find my hope and refuge in his presence as I pray.
No hurt beyond his healing, no pain beyond his reach,
and at his touch my heart is filled with peace. *Chorus*

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Psalm 62:5-12

Sunil Kotian

Leader: For God alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from God.

**People: God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**

Leader: On God rests my deliverance and my honor;
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

**People: Trust in God at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before the Lord;
God is a refuge for us.**

Leader: The poor and powerless are but a breath,
The rich and powerful are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.

**People: Put no confidence in extortion,
and set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.**

Leader: Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,
and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.

**People: For you repay to all
according to their work.**

HYMN OF PRAYER #355

Depth of Mercy

***Depth of mercy! Can there be mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God his wrath forbear, me, the chief of sinners, spare?***

***There for me the Savior stands, shows his wounds and spreads his hands.
God is love! I know, I feel; Jesus weeps and loves me still.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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!***

SECOND LESSON

John 9:1-11

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.'

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

So That

Rev. Phil Dorrell

HYMN OF DEDICATION #451

Be Thou My Vision

***Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.***

***Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.***

***Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heav'n's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.***

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Festival Toccata

P. Fletcher

This week's worship leaders:

Sunil Kotian, *Pastoral Intern*

John Drake, *Liturgist*

Ron Berry, *Soloist*

John Hague & Jack Haefling, *Audio Visual*

Heather Hinton, *Organist*

Rev. Philip Dorrell, an Indianapolis native, is a graduate of Butler University and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. He pastored United Methodist churches across central Indiana from 1975 until retiring in 2016. Phil and Tona have been married since 1972, have three children, and are grateful to have all six grandchildren living within a twenty minutes' drive. In retirement Phil enjoys reading, playing the trumpet, and tutoring adult literacy students. Tona and Phil have been happy to call North UMC their church home since fall 2016. They appreciate its music, liturgy, and preaching, its diversity, and its advocacy.