



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SPARTANBURG, SC

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2020
11:00AM

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND INVITATION

One: This is the day that the Lord has made;

All: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

arr. Paul Manz

During the Opening Voluntary, we invite you into a period of quiet reflection.

*Almighty and eternal God,
draw my heart to you, guide my mind, fill my imagination, control my will,
that I may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you;
and then use me, I pray, as you will,
but always to your glory and the welfare of your people,
through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

INTROIT

Come, Worship God

O Quanta Qualia

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

All: **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

One: though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

All: **Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**

One: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

All: **he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.**

One: "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

All: **The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

One: Come, let us worship God.

(Psalm 46:1-3,8-11)

HYMN 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
(words below; hymn printed at end of bulletin)

CWM RHONDDA

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.*

*Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.*

*When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Wise and powerful God,
you have given light and hope
to guide us in our journey into the future,
yet we confess that we are reluctant to move.
The past appears comfortable and familiar.
We seek to prolong moments of joy
and linger amid pleasant memories, and that is good;
but forgive us when we fail to move forward into the future
which you are even now preparing for us.
When we rely on our wisdom instead of yours,
when we trust our efforts and find ourselves exhausted,
when we resist change because the future is unknown,
forgive us gracious God.
By your Word, Sacrament, and Spirit,
fill us with the gifts of courage, talent, discernment, and energy
that equip us to meet life's demands.
Renew us with your ever-vibrant Spirit,
as we live and pray in the confidence and joy of Jesus Christ our Lord...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us proclaim the Good News:
All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
One: And we are not only forgiven, we are also freed.
All: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE

HYMN 582

GLORY TO GOD (VASILE)

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
(Repeat)*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come and Fill our Hearts

Taize Community

SCRIPTURE READING

John 16:29-33

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 31:1-8

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Crossing Over Our Jordan

Rev. Joanne R. Hull

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A DECLARATION OF FAITH: CHAPTER 10 (Unison)

God keeps his promises and gives us hope.

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus

God kept his promises.

All that we can ever hope for

was present in Christ.

But the work of God in Christ is not over.

God calls us to hope for more than we have yet seen.

The hope God gives us is ultimate confidence

that supports us when lesser hopes fail us.

In Christ God gives hope for a new heaven and earth,

certainty of victory over death,

assurance of mercy and judgment beyond death.

This hope gives us courage for the present struggle.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

What a Fellowship

arr. Gilbert Martin

DOXOLOGY

HYMN 609

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above, Ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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.

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

HYMN 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past
(words below; hymn printed at end of bulletin)

ST. ANNE

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

*Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.*

*A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.*

*Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years 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 guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

HYMN 546, VERSE 1

SICILIAN MARINERS

*Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us,
O refresh us,
traveling through this wilderness.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Praeludium in C

Felix Mendelssohn

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. Joanne R. Hull
Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr.
Rev. L. Craig Foster
Rev. Leslie A. Lang
Mrs. Holly M. Bannan

Holt Andrews, Director
Marcia Andrews, Organist

Additional Musicians

Valerie MacPhail
Lisa Cunningham
Reel Robertson
Paul MacPhail

Virtual Choir

Singers from the
Chancel Choir
Chamber Singers
Genesis Choir

Today's Floral Memorial:

*In loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin R. Pickens, Sr. and Mr. Benjamin R. Pickens, Jr.
by their family.*

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

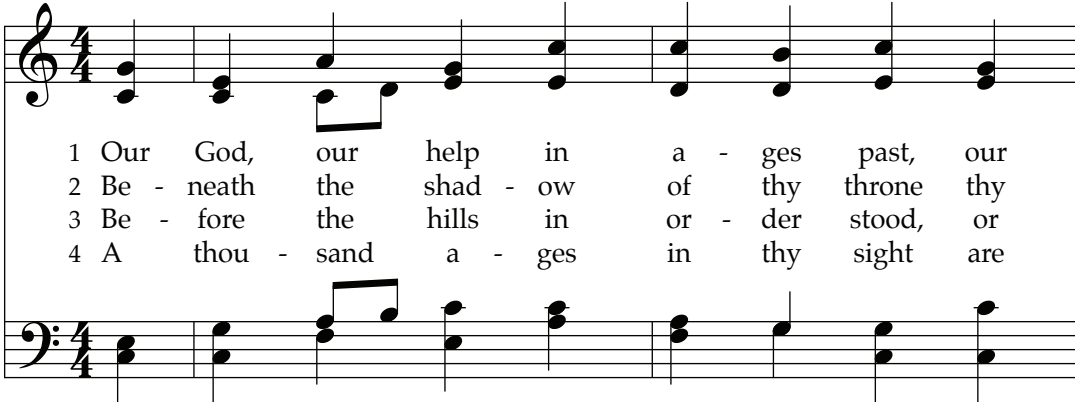
with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

(Psalm 90)



1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our
2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine
earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing
like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
thou art God, to end - less years the same.
ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.
- 6 Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
MUSIC: Attr. William Croft, 1708

ST. ANNE
CM