

Together in Christ, Reaching Beyond Our Doors.

"Sonata in A" Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy
Oak Martin, organ

PRAYER OF APPROACH (in unison)

Wonderful are you, God of Christ Jesus! By your Spirit, lead us in this time of worship that brims with possibility, that we may stretch beyond our knowledge and lift much higher than the mere words of our prayers. Set us free to allow in your hospitality and to enjoy you with the delight of a child. O hear the prayers of your people ...

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

No. 895

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.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Onward, Ye Peoples!"

Jean Sibelius

Guest Chancel Choir Director - Candice Wallace

Onward ye peoples, strive for the Light! The Light that the Lord hath given us for our guide; Who through murk and darkness of night Hath led us in safety unto our reward. See how the fiery pillar is gleaming, lighting our steps when dark is the way And the Light of the World, it cleaves the gloomy blackness of night that else would engulf us. See the cloudy pillar to shield us safe when the sun would blister us. Then forward where faith reveals the way, For God is our guide, and He will never fail. Fires are gleaming, voices are singing forth from Mount Nebo's heaven storming heights. Then forward where faith reveals the way, For God is our guide, and HE will never fail. Fires are gleaming, voices are singing forth from Mount Nebo's heaven storming heights. Salem! [Peace!] Salem! [Peace!] Still, they call us upward and on to our Father's home. Salem! Salem! On the horizon, urging us on to God and our home; And the heavenly choir doth ring from Mount Nebo, Piercing the blue like a living light. Onward, ye peoples. Onward, Amen! Onward, ye people. Onward, ye peoples. Strive for the Light. Salem! [Peace!]

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Gospel of John 9: 1-41

(NT p. 102)

Key verse: As Jesus 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 ..."

Leader: The Word of God. **All: For the People of God.** Leader: Thanks be to God.

The Resurrection Shaped Life:

SERMON

"Giving Up Shame and Blame"

CONFESSION TO BE FREE OF SHAME AND BLAME

(see below)

BRINGING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Your Love, O God"

No. 120 (*tune: Finlandia*)

*DOXOLOGY

No. 94

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!

*PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF GOING FORTH

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

No. 560

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

"Shalom, Shalom"

Diane Clark

*POSTLUDE

"Rhapsody No. 3"

Herbert Howells

Oak Martin, organ

*You are invited to remain seated for the postlude as part of your worship experience.
(If you choose to exit the sanctuary during the postlude, please do so quietly. Thank you.)*

*All who are comfortable standing are invited to stand.

CONFESSION TO BE FREE OF SHAME AND BLAME

(Adapted from Bruce D. Prewer, Australia)

One: Love and mercy always awaits those who turn to God for forgiveness and wisdom.

All: Let us pray.

Left: God of the weak-willed and God of the strong, of the clever and the foolish, the humble and the powerful, please continue to have mercy on your people.

Right: Forgive the weak for giving in too easily when the pressures of work, family or community wear them down until they become irritable.

Left: Forgive the strong for pushing ahead with scant regard for those in their way, and for despising those who can't push back.

Right: Forgive the foolish for rushing into poor decisions, and then berating others when things go drastically wrong.

Left: Forgive the clever for using their skills and knowledge to overwhelm lesser intellects in order to get their own way.

Right: Forgive the humble for using their lowly status as an excuse for the evasion of responsibility when challenged by your Holy Spirit.

One: Lord have mercy. **All: Lord have mercy.**

One: Christ have mercy. **All: Christ have mercy.**

One: Lord have mercy **All: Lord have mercy.**

One: Most loving God, bring to bear on our lives the saving grace of Christ Jesus. Give us the desire and the courage to turn from unhelpful blaming and scape-goating. And help us not to be too proud to accept a breakthrough which asks nothing but our acceptance of it. Enable us to put right whatever we can, and to let go of the remainder, leaving it in your hands. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen!

DECLARING THE GOOD NEWS

One: My friends you are set free: to be a forgiven people, and to become a forgiving people in all your dealings with those who sin against you.

All: Thanks be to God.