

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

September 2, 2018

10:30 a.m.

* All who are able may stand

Congregation reads aloud the **bold print**

THE TIME OF CENTERING

"What we call doubt is often simply dullness of mind and spirit, not the absence of faith at all, but faith latent with the lives we are not quite living, God dormant in the world to which we are not quite giving our best selves."

~ Christian Wiman, *My Bright Abyss: Meditation of a Modern Believer*, 21st Century

THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GATHERS

PRELUDE

The Girl With the Flaxen Hair Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
Hiroko Yamazaki – piano

OPENING SCRIPTURE

WELCOME

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

SILENCE AS THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Every generous act is a gift from God

who gives birth to us through the word.

Let us worship God!

*HYMN NO. 663

Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION

Dear God, you call us to be doers of the Word, not hearers only. You call us to love the world with your passion, and to let that love be expressed in justice, forgiveness, peace. Forgive us when our hearts are constricted with fear and do not let your transforming grace open us to the world you cherish. Forgive us when we honor you only with our lips and not with our actions.

A Time of Silence

(Please take this time in silence to offer your own prayers of confession—confessing your need for God and naming those barriers that keep you from knowing life as God's beloved child.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Holy One, in Christ you have shown us the way into your beloved community of mercy, love, and peace, in which you are making all things new.

We come to affirm our covenant and sacred promise to be in loving relationship with you.

Thank you for giving us life. Open us, body, mind, and spirit to your truth.

Fill us with your grace so we can fall in love with your world and offer – and experience – forgiveness, reconciliation, and hope.

*RESPONSE (all sing)

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

NO. 833, v. 1

**O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.**

*GREETING OF PEACE

Since God has made peace with us, let us make peace with each other.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

(We greet each other: "The peace of Christ be with you.")

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Christina Pressley

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

James 1:17-27

p. 980

SOLO

Consider the Lilies

John Prindle Scott

Winthrop Buswell, bass-baritone

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow;

They toil not, neither do they spin, they toil not, neither do they spin: Yet I say, I say unto you,

That Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these, was not arrayed like one of these.

Wherefore, if God so clothed the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven,

Shall He not much more clothe you, O ye o little faith, O ye of little faith?

Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself.

Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof, is the evil thereof.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness;

And all these things shall be added unto you, and all these things shall be added unto you.

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

What Not to Wear

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

*HYMN NO. 683

Lord of All Hopefulness

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER ("forgive us our *debts* as we forgive our *debtors*")

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

His Eye Is on the Sparrow Charles Gabriel/Civilla Martin
Maria Hess, soloist

Why should I feel discouraged? And why should the shadows come?

Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home?

When Jesus is my portion, my constant friend is He

His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches over me

Refrain: I sing because I am happy, I sing because I am free

His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me

"Let not your heart be troubled" His tender words I hear

And resting on His goodness I lose all my doubts and all of my fears

Though by His path He leadeth though just one step I may see

God's eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches over me

*DOXOLOGY (all sing)

For the Life That You Have Given

NO. 717

**For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
With these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
Here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
Give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

On this weekend, when we rest from our usual labors, Loving Creator, we pray for all who shoulder the tasks of human labor – in the marketplace, in factories and offices, in the professions, and in family living.

(cont'd)

We thank you, Lord, for the gift and opportunity of work; may our efforts always be pure of heart, for the good of others and the glory of your name. We lift up to you all who long for just employment and those who work to defend the rights and needs of workers everywhere.

May those of us who are now retired always remember that we still make a valuable contribution to our Church and our world by our prayers and deeds of charity.

May our working and our resting all give praise to you until the day we share together in eternal rest with all our departed in your Kingdom as you live and reign Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Arabesque No. 2

Claude Debussy

Hiroko Yamazaki – piano

Welcome visitors! We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please record your name, address, and phone number/email on one of the Connection Cards in the pew and introduce yourself to the pastor as you leave. *All are invited to join us for light refreshments and fellowship after church in the back of the Sanctuary.*

Assisting in the service of worship are:

Deacon-in-Charge: Alan Jewett

Liturgist: Raven Studer

Ushers: Ellin Foote, Dan Voelker

The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Chloe & Ron McKinney in memory of Harry & Cleo Polk.

Weekly Prayer List (follows directory):

Torill Drury

Jennifer & Rob Eppes, Aubrey

Lucy Dunn

Edee & Bob Fenimore



The September issue of the Concord Courier is now available in the Narthex and on the website. There's a lot going on – don't miss a thing!

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