

Worship Notes:

*Throughout our worship music today, we observe and celebrate Black History Month by drawing extensively upon the vast body of African American spirituals (both texts and tunes). Many of us have sung spirituals our whole lives. Though our individual experiences may be distant from those of a slave, we sing spirituals today in honor of the contributions African Americans made to Christian hymnody. Writing in *The Presbyterian Outlook*, Phillip Morgan (Director of Music in Louisville, Kentucky) said:*

“These songs are an important part of the Christian life and our faith formation. We teach them to our children because they impart something about the mysteries of our faith that seems to be only captured in the act of singing. When we teach our children to sing spirituals and songs crafted out of the groans and laments of enslaved Africans, we relive their testimony and move ourselves to appropriate acts of repentance and repair.”

May God bless to our understanding the Word expressed and experienced through this gift of music.

—Joe Chrisman, Minister of Music—

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

PRELUDE

Peace Like a River, arr. J. Raney¹

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 37

Leader: Don't be worried on account of the wicked; don't be jealous of those who do wrong. They will soon disappear like grass that dries up; they will die like plants that wither.

People: **Trust in God and do good; live in the land and be safe. Seek your happiness in God who gives you your heart's desire.**

Leader: Commit your way to the Lord and trust in God's actions.

People: **Be patient and wait for the LORD to act; don't be worried about those who prosper or those who succeed in their evil plans.**

Leader: Don't give in to worry or anger; it only leads to trouble.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your ways or trusted your promises. We love only those who love us; we show kindness only to those who are kind to us; we give only when we expect to receive. Forgive us, Lord. Fill our hearts with your selfless love. Change our lives by your matchless grace. These things we pray through Christ our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***ACCLAMATION HYMN 605**

Praise to God the Father, Da N'ase³

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Please turn to the back wall and wave to our online worshippers, offering them the peace of Christ and then greet each other.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 45: 3-11, 15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there since

there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

After the message, children may follow the teacher to room 11 for Spiritual Adventures.

HYMN 740

*Lead Me, Guide Me, Lead Me, Guide Me*⁴

NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 6:27-38

‘But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

‘If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

‘Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.’

SERMON

From Pit to Pardon

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN 766**

*The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound, McKee*⁵

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE HYMN 658

*God Is So Good, God Is So Good*⁶

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERATORY SENTENCES

OFFERTORY

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian, arr. A. Whitworth⁷

*DEDICATION HYMN 700 (verse 1 & 2)

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me,
I'm Gonna Live*⁸

1. I'm gonna live so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!

2. I'm gonna work so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SEALING THE WORD

*HYMN 313

Lord, Make Us More Holy, Lord, Make Us More Holy⁹

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Kum Ba Yah: Someone's Singing Lord, arr. J. Raney¹⁰

Leaders Today:

Preacher: Pastor Sara Tonje

Liturgist: Andrea Witt

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

AV/Tech: John Tarr/Josh Mou

Dorothy Blotz, piano

Ushers/Greeters: Doug & Juanita Halls, Sue Dornfeld, Yong Joo Erwin (Deacon)

