October 1st, 2023

Reflections on Inclusivity

No one is born hating another person because of the color of his sin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite....Nelson Mandela

Order of Worship (*Please rise in body and/or spirit)

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

Setting by Wilbur Held

Candle Lighting

*Call to Worship

Leader: We gather here, where God would teach us:

People: so we may learn to be more compassionate, so we may be taught how to be more loving.

Leader: We gather here, where Jesus would teach us

People: the wisdom to choose forgiveness over holding a grudge, the language of hope so we may speak to all.

Leader: We gather here, where the Spirit imparts wisdom,

People: so we might know how to share grace, so we would learn to welcome all to this Table.

***Hymn** #756 O God of Every Nation

music page 5

Call to Confession

Leader: We pray together, confessing our resistance to God's will, and seeking the joy that comes with aligning our hearts with God's.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gracious and Merciful God, you welcome each and every person who comes to you. It brings you joy to be the gathering place for

your people of every kind, reflecting the whole diversity of the human community. You give us an image of heaven to look forward to filled with people that fit every description, singing and praising you for being united in this glorious eternal fellowship. We confess that we have quite far to go for that image to come to life. We routinely exclude people different than ourselves. When another has a different experience of life than what we've had and what we consider normal, we bristle and seek to protect our narrow understanding, rather than be enriched by new perspectives. We are sorry, Lord, for working against you and the joy you take in all people. Open our hearts to share joy. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie, kyrie eleison, (Lord, have mercy)
Kyrie, kyrie eleison.
Christe, Christe eleison, (Christ, have mercy)
Christe, Christe eleison.
Kyrie, kyrie eleison,
Kyrie, kyrie eleison, eleison.

Moment for Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Hear this Good News: In Christ, we are united with each of God's children. What we have done to sever those bonds of love can be healed. What has torn us apart, Christ can sew back together. Whatever is broken by sin can be restored. God is serious about these commitments to us. We are asked in return to be serious about placing our faith in Christ, to fully entrust our lives to the Lord, so that we can experience the fullness of God's reconciling love. Seize the opportunity, and find your life changed.

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 56:1-8

This is the Word of the Lord: Thanks be to God!

Children's Message

Sharing of Joys and Concerns Prayers of the Church and The Lord's Prayer Passing the Peace

***Hymn** #753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace *music page 6*

Second Scripture Lesson Galatians 3:26-28 This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God!**

Sermon "The Gospel of Ever-expanding Inclusion"

Offering Offertory *Doxology Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.** Leader: Lift up your hearts.

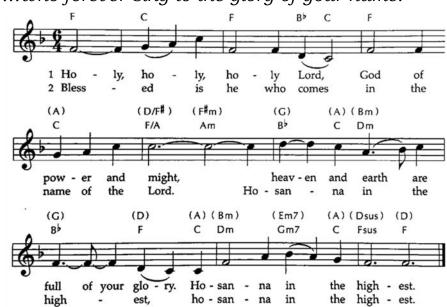
People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer continues...

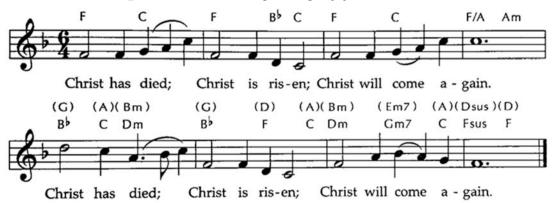
...who forever sing to the glory of your name:



3

Prayer continues...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution and Sharing of the Elements

You are invited to eat the bread as it is served; Please hold the cup until all have been served; We will drink together. Please let the servers know if you need gluten free bread.

Prayer after Communion (unison)

Thank you Lord, for the people we have shared your table with, not only in this place, but across the Christian community. We have been blessed by the abundance of your love and the unrestricted access to your grace. Recognizing what we have received, we prepare to go out in the world, enthusiastic about sharing what you have shared with us. Amen.

Hymn God, In Our Church's Teaching

music page 7

Benediction

Postlude Be Thou My Vision

Setting by David Laskey

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Katja Gruening
Director of Music Ministries: Marcello Velame

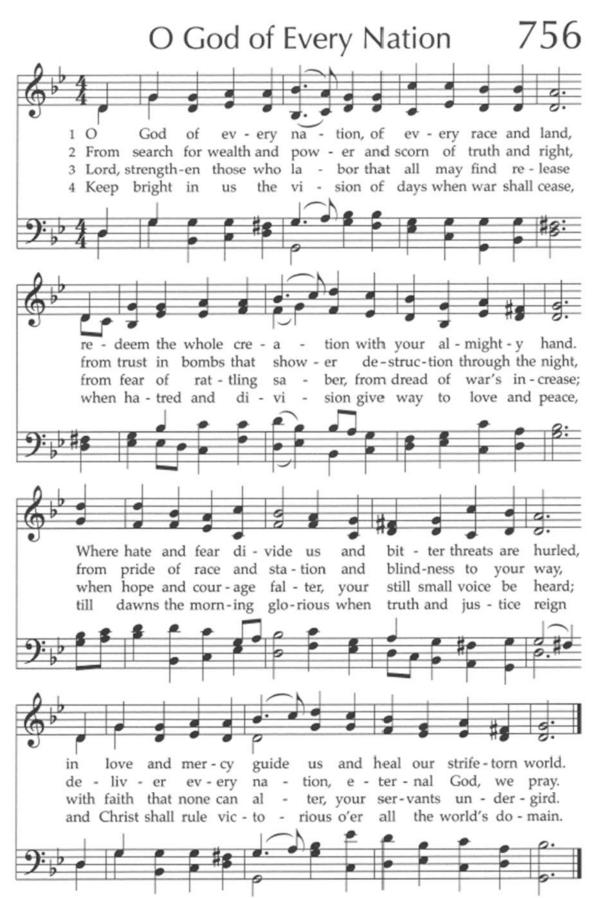
Liturgist: Lori Hirce
Ushers: Brian Sergeant

Andy Wolf

Zoom Hosts: John Palframan

Jim Wright Rich Vodhanel

Social Hour: Fellowship



If we truly believe that God cares for all people, we cannot limit our prayers and songs for peace to the welfare of our own nation, no matter how much we may love it. This challenging text is set to a stirring Welsh tune, named for a hamlet with a prominent Baptist chapel.

753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace





God, In Our Church's Teaching



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