

**ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**September 20, 2009, 11:00 am—25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**GATHERING**

PRELUDE *Voluntary in D Minor* H. Purcell

WELCOME

TOLLING OF THE CARILLON

INTROIT *Saints Bound for Heaven*  
arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955); Text: from Southern Harmony, 1835

Our bondage it shall end by and by, by and by...  
From Egypt's yoke set free, hail the glorious jubilee,  
And to Canaan we'll return by and by...

Our deliverer he shall come by and by...  
And our sorrows have an end with our three-score years and ten,  
And vast glory crown the day by and by...

And when to Jordan's floods we are come...  
Jehovah rules the tide and the waters he'll divide,  
And the ransomed host shall shout, "We are come..."

Then with all the happy throng we'll rejoice...  
Shouting glory to our King, 'til the vaults of heaven ring,  
And through all eternity we'll rejoice...

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We have gathered to rejoice in our oneness in Jesus Christ! Each of us experiences faith and life in a unique way.

**All: *Yet we have one God, one faith, and one baptism, and one Spirit who unites us all.***

One: Let us lift our hearts as one, in songs of praise, in prayer, and in listening for God's word.

**All: *Even when we leave this place, let us be joined in common concern for humanity, like that shown by Jesus Christ.***

One: Let us worship God.

+\*HYMN 210 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* St. Anne

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us pray.

**All: *Almighty God, you have called us into your church to be your servants in the service of others. Forgive us for falling short of your call. At times we have loved our buildings more than our brothers and sisters. We have been more concerned with budgets than with justice and peace. We have been more ready to talk about Christ than to live in Christ's image. Cut through our evasions, increase our courage, renew our vision. Make us and the whole church more nearly what you would have us be; through Jesus Christ, whose Body we are. Amen.***

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news! Through Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

**People: *Thanks be to God. Amen.***

\*+GLORIA PATRI 579

TIME WITH CHILDREN

RECOGNITION OF STEPHEN MINISTERS

One: There are different gifts,

**All: *But it is the same Spirit who gives them.***

One: There are different ways of serving God,

**All: *But it is the same Lord who is served.***

One: God works through different people in different ways,

**All: *But it is the same God whose will is brought about through them all.***

One: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

**All: *To use for the common good.***

One: Together we are the body of Christ.

**All: *And individually members of Christ.***

INTRODUCTION OF STEPHEN MINISTERS

Kristen Annett	Lisa Jensen	Susan Silver
Elizabeth Bell	Barbara Johnson	Ann Tommelein
Nancy Gaffney	Laura Lewis	Debra Templeman

AFFIRMATIONS OF THOSE BEING COMMISSIONED

AFFIRMATION OF THE CONGREGATION

COMMISSIONING PRAYER

COMMISSIONING

*(Children are invited to go to Sunday School)*

ANTHEM *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, from An American Triptych*  
Leo Nestor; Text: Robert Robinson, 1758

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy grace I've come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me while a sinner, wand'ring from the fold of God.  
He, to rescue me from danger, interspersed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor or daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for they courts above.

O that day when freed from sinning, I shall see thy lovely face;  
clothed then in blood-washed linen, how I'll sing thy sovereign grace.  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry! Take my ransomed soul away!  
Send thine angels now to carry me to realms of endless day. Amen.

**THE WORD**

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 90 (selected vss.) NRSV

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place in all generations.  
Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."  
For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past,  
or like a watch in the night.

The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;  
even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.  
Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants!  
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

OFFERTORY *The Lord is My Shepherd* John Rutter (b. 1945)  
Text: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture:  
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.  
He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth  
in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff comfort me.  
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:  
thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

\*DOXOLOGY (592) and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SCRIPTURE READING Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8  
NRSV

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

SERMON *The Journey of Life: The Middle Years*  
Rev. Thomas D. York

SHARING CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

**SENDING**

\*HYMN 360 *Hope of the World* Donna Secours

\*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* G. F. Handel

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\*Please stand as you are able + Latecomers may be seated

**During the tolling of the carillon** we invite you to remember all who work for peace and justice in our world today.

**Today's flowers** are given to the glory of God and in honor of John Francis Werdmann's 86th birthday, by the Werdmann family.

