

Service for the Lord's Day

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 13, 2015

Enter this place in humbleness. For this is the House of the Lord.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(each person prays silently)

Help us always to remember that you have forgiven and accepted us only because of Christ, and not because of ourselves or anything that we have done. Amen.

Gathering

PRELUDE

Selected

WELCOME

Claudia Morgan-Gray

*INTROIT #664

"Morning Has Broken"

Farjeon, 1931

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The heavens tell of the glory of God, and all creation tells God's story.

All God's creatures reflect God's beauty.

The commandments of God give shape to human community.

Our life together speaks of God's wisdom.

The life of Jesus shows forth God's love.

Our faith in the Lord tells God's story.

Let us worship together the God we continue to learn about.

We have come to worship the One, True God.

*HYMN #697

"Take My Life"

Havergal, 1874

CALL TO CONFESSION

We know that God loves us. But we continue to fall short, and our sins break God's heart.

Let us confess our inactivity and our repeated failures, trusting in God's promise to forgive us once again. Let us pray first silently, then together using the words in the bulletin.

SILENT PRAYER

(A time of silence for personal prayer)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great Teacher, you asked your disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" We would like to be like Peter, and answer immediately, 'You are the Messiah!' More often, we speak of you as an instructor, a prophet, God's example of how we should live in this world. Like Peter, we don't want to hear about your suffering. We don't want to answer your invitation to deny

ourselves and follow you. Lord Jesus, in your mercy, correct us. Remind us that when we give ourselves to the poor and the hopeless all around us, we give ourselves to you. Amen.

LORD HAVE MERCY

Kyrie Eleison

*"Lord, have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us."*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's mercy abounds. For in the name of Christ Incarnate, we are forgiven!

We have been chosen by God to become better people than we have ever been before. Following the Christ is our challenge and our joy! Thanks be to God. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

#580

Proclaiming

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Psalms 19

Bibles, p. 472 / LG. p. 613

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN #716

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

Edwards, 1961

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Mark 8: 27-36

Bibles, p. 41 / LG. p. 53

The Word of God, for the People of God

Thanks be to God

SERMON

"How to Save Your Life"

Rev. Candice L. Klein

Responding

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory." This we believe. Amen. – The Scots Confession, chapter 1

