

THE SERVICE of Worship

November 8, 2020
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:30 A.M.



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH of
RICHARDSON
established 1870

Responding to God's love and grace, we WORSHIP with joy, NURTURE with faith, and SERVE others with love.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

“Let All Things Now Living”
Edwin Walker, Organist

Arr. David Cherwien

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP | *Responsively*

Written by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Through Moses, God said,

“Let my people go.” (Ex.9:1)

In scripture, the law declares:

“In the seventh year, you must cancel all debts.” (Deut.15:1)

With grace, Jesus said:

“Give one coat away.” (Luke 3:11)

With honesty, Jesus taught:

“Sell what you have, give that money to the poor.” (Matt. 19:21)

Faith has always involved letting go, releasing, setting free,
dropping our nets, giving to others, and following.

So in this hour of worship, may we release that which binds us.

**May we worship with open, untamed, and porous hearts,
so that we can walk freely with God.**

Let it be so.

Amen.

HYMN OF FAITH | “Faith Begins by Letting Go”

Glory to God 684

Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure, taking risks and pressing on,
though the way feels less secure: pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on, keeping memory's roots alive so that hope may bear its fruit; promise-fed,
our souls will thrive, not through merit we possess but by God's great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds, enlarging hearts, sharing struggles, living prayer,
binding up the broken parts; till we find the commonplace ripe with witness to God's grace.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION | *Unison*

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Gracious God, we admit to holding tight to that which we know and understand.

We put you in a box to avoid the shades of gray that come with faith.

We put worship in a box to avoid the discomfort of change.

We put ourselves in boxes labeled with gender expectations and societal norms.

We put others in boxes labeled “worthy” and “unworthy.”

We put all that we have in a box and pray we won't run out.

**So in this moment, we confess to holding tight to fear, greed,
and worldly structures. Forgive us for missing the point.**

**Open our eyes to a new way—to a holiness found in open boxes,
unclenched fists, shades of gray, and holy release. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS | *Responsively*

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God cannot be put in a box.
God's love is beyond measure, and you are included in that love.
Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve.

Alleluia! Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Rosy and Pastor David

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 15: 1-11

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 19: 16-22

SERMON

Rev. Rosy Robson

HYMN OF PRAISE | "Be Thou My Vision"

Glory to God 450

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art .

4. High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | *Unison*

From the Confession of 1967

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to humanity commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. Jesus' crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *and* THE LORD'S PRAYER | *Glory to God Pg. 35*

CALL FOR OFFERING

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Colleen Oates

OFFERTORY

"Bless This House"
Colleen Oates, Soloist

Mary Brahe

BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Trumpet Allemande
Edwin Walker, Organist

Anthony Holborne