

With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones, where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God's love by word and deed to all people. Based on I Peter 2:5, 6

The Worship of God

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 23, 2022

Prelude

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

Cynthia Griesedieck

By Robert W. Thygerson, based on "Need" by Robert Lowry

Welcome Christian McIvor

† Call to Worship

One: God is love.

All: Let us know God's love and love ourselves.

One: God is love.

All: Let us know God's love and love one another.

One: God is love.

All: Let us know God's love and love all of creation.

One: God is love.

All: Let us know God's love and live in it completely.

One: Let us worship the God who is love.

All: Amen.

† Opening Hymn

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

Words by George Matheson, Music by Christopher Miner

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, That in thine ocean depths its flow May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee; My heart restores its borrowed ray, That in thy sunshine's blaze its day May brighter, fairer be.

(cont'd on next page)

[†] Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol throughout the service.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, And feel the promise is not vain, That morn shall tearless be.

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, That in thine ocean depths its flow May richer, fuller be.

During the last stanza of our Opening Hymn, all children are invited to come forward for today's children's sermon.

Children's Sermon April Alston

Pastoral Prayer

As our offertory anthem is sung, please feel free to place your offering in the plates on either side of the center aisle in the back of the sanctuary, or you can also give online by scanning the QR code on the back of this worship bulletin.

Offertory Anthem

"The Storm is Passing Over"
GBC Choir

By Charles Albert Tindley, arr. Barbara W. Baker

Have courage my soul and let us journey on Though the night is dark, and I am far from home. Thanks be to God, the morning light appears.

The storm is passing over, The storm is passing over, The storm is passing over, Hallelu! (Repeat)

Halelujah, Ha-le-lu-jah, Ha-le-lu-jah! The storm is passing over, The storm is passing over, The storm is passing over, Hallelu! (Repeat...)

† Doxology 817

"O Bless the Gifts"

Words by Samuel Longfellow, alt.

Music by Twila Paris

O bless the gifts our hands have brought; And bless the work our hearts have planned. Ours is the faith, the will, the thought; The rest, O God, is in Your hand.

Prayer of Dedication

Carla Lenoir

Scripture Reading

John 15:1-17

Evarist Ngandu

Sermon

"The Pain and Promise of Pruning"

Chrissy Williamson

Silent Reflection

† Musical Reflection

"Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus"

By Christian McIvor

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Verse 1:

We've been battered by the waves, we've been blasted by the wind, And we're only drifting further from the shore. Now we need the one who saves to help us turn from how we've sinned, And to show us all that we were made for more.

Pre-chorus:

When we're feeling like we're lost out on the sea, We'll remember we don't have to fear, 'cause we have been set free.

Chorus 1:

Seeing through the eyes of Jesus With a heart that reaches out through every storm, In the presence of the living God, we find our meaning and we are being Transformed; and in the love of Christ, we can change the world.

Verse 2:

If we follow and commit, seeking out relationship, We could make a Way that welcomes everyone. 'Cause we know that this is it, so here and now we will equip Our communities to work until it's done.

Pre-chorus:

With a bold and faithful witness, we'll sustain Hope of healing for a broken world, and we will bring God's reign.

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Chorus 2:

Seeing through the eyes of Jesus With a heart that reaches out through every storm, In the presence of the living God, we find our meaning and we are being Transformed; and in the love of Christ, we can change.

(Repeat Chorus 2)

In the love of Christ, we can change; In the love of Christ, we can change the world.

Invitation Chrissy Williamson

† Hymn of Response 597

"Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated"

Crated" Words by Frances R. Havergal, Music by Henry A. César Malan

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee; Take my moments and my days— Let them flow in ceaseless praise, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love; Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee, Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only, for my King; Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee, Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold— Not a mite would I withhold; Take my intellect and use Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose, Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my love— my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store; Take myself— and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee, Ever, only, all for Thee.

(cont'd on next page)

Take my will and make it Thine— It shall be no longer mine; Take my heart— it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne, It shall be Thy royal throne.

Celebrating Community

Anna Beth Cross

Benediction Chrissy Williamson

Postlude"More Love to Thee, O Christ"

Tim Hendrix

arr. Bob Burroughs

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