

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

Heritage Sunday

September 10, 2023

Gathering Music

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

DENNIS;

Words by John Fawcett, Music by Johann Georg Nägeli, arr. Lowell Mason

/-'('-- D--|-----//

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT;

"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"

Words and music by Bernadette Farrell

"Family of God"

Words by Paul Duke, Music by Darrell Adams

"Oh, How Good It Is"

Words and Music by Keith Getty,

Kristyn Getty, Ross Holmes, and Stuart Townend

Prelude

Medley: "Deep and Wide," "Down in My Heart,"

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian," and "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"
GBC Children's and Preschool Choir

Welcome

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Call to Worship

One: God gathers us in and brings us back together.

All: Our mouths are filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.

One: The Lord has done great things for us,

All: and our hearts are filled with joy and gratitude.

One: Those who have been out weeping, sowing their seed with tears, All: are returning with songs of joy for God's harvest of blessings.

One: Let us worship the God who is always leading us home.

† Opening Song

"Living Stones"

Words and Music by Christian McIvor ©2020

Verse 1:

Come! See! Let your heart be set on fire!

And go! Tell! Add your voice now to the choir!

Join us as we sound the invitation

To work to bring about a new creation!

Pre-chorus:

Here, we are answering our call;

Every member equipped to bring light and hope to all.

(cont'd on the next page)

[†] Please rise in body or spirit.

Chorus:

We will bring God's reign near and in the love of Christ be led, Doing the Word, making it heard.

And all are welcome here! Come to the table and be fed!

From near and far, come as you are.

Here, you will never be alone.

In the glory of God, we're building a church of living stones!

Verse 2:

Open up your mind to transformation That offers justice, peace, and liberation. Growing as we honor our tradition; Together, we'll move forward in our mission.

(Pre-chorus, Chorus 2x)

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

Children's Sermon April Alston

Pastoral Prayer Anna Beth Cross

Offertory Anthem

"Resurrection People"

By Pepper Choplin

Refrain:

Let us stand as resurrection people, Let us sing a resurrection song. Let us tell the resurrection story of the glory of the Lord.

(Refrain)

God has called us out of darkness to be raised in the fullness of Christ. And whatever is true, whatever is right, Let us live as children of light.

(Refrain)

Let the word of Christ dwell in us as his peace lives within our hearts. So whatever we do, whatever we claim, Let us go in Jesus' name.

(Refrain)

(cont'd on the next page)

We will stand (we will stand), We will sing (we will sing, We will tell of the glory, the glory of the Lord!

† Doxology 817

"O Bless the Gifts"

LAMB OF GOD;

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

Scripture Reading

Ezra 1:1-11

Doug Cole

Sermon

"The Return of the Exiles"

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Silent Reflection

Communion

Chrissy Tatum Williamson and Christian McIvor

† Musical Response

"We Are One in the Spirit" THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS; Words and Music by Peter Scholtes

Verse 1:

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord; we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Verse 2:

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand; we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand, and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:

(Refrain)

(cont'd on the next page)

Verse 3:

We will work with each other; we will work side by side; we will work with each other; we will work side by side, and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:

(Refrain)

Verse 4:

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come, and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son, and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:

(Refrain)

Celebrating Community

Steve Rose

Benediction Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Postlude "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

arr. Matt Limbaugh

Greystone Staff

Chrissy Tatum Williamson, Senior Pastor April Alston, Associate Minister, Children and Preschool Anna Beth Cross, Associate Minister, Students and Digital Discipleship Christian McIvor, Minister of Worship, Music, and the Arts Pam Phillips, Weekly Preschool Director Steve Rose, Property Manager Annette Variano, Administrative Assistant

Scan to Connect With Us:

