



First Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

January 27, 2019

11:00 a.m.

Third Sunday after Epiphany

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The mission of First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg is to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ, who know God and, through love, serve the Lord and others. We will accomplish our mission by practicing radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission, and extravagant generosity.

PREPARATION

(Please use the prelude as a time for reflection and preparation for worship.)

**Please stand, if able. Responses are in boldface.*

PRELUDE

"Rhosymedre" ("Lovely"—Welsh hymn tune)

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872–1958)

Jack Rain, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let your minds ponder the manifold works of God. Let your spirits soar amid the wonders of creation.

There is pulsating life all around us. The earth is full of God's creatures.

Sun and rain proclaim God's infinite imagination. Moon and stars sing the glory of the Eternal One.

It is God who shares with us wisdom and understanding. We depend on God for the gift of life.

We gather to worship and praise the God of all people. We come to learn from the God we only dimly perceive.

We reach out for answers to our questions. We long to find meaning and purpose for our days.

INTROIT

“Brighten the Corner Where You Are”

Charles Hutchinson Gabriel

Chancel Choir

Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do; do not wait to shed your light afar; to the many duties ever near you now be true, brighten the corner where you are. Brighten the corner where you are! Someone far from harbor you may guide across the bar; brighten the corner where you are!

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 24**

“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

HOLY MANNA

PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Susan Schlecht

Reigning God, we confess that we, like the disciples James and John, seek places of honor, privilege, and reward. We succumb to the temptation to compare ourselves with others to our advantage. We want privilege without pain, greatness without the grind of hard work. We expect rewards for our efforts. We talk about serving you, but we do not want the rank of servant. We have lots of ideas about what you might do to intervene in the world and little commitment to what we might do in your name. Forgive us and help us, gracious God. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Susan Schlecht

The tears and prayers of Christ are for us. The gift of the Holy Spirit re-creates us for ministry. Bless and thank our God for the manifold works which have sustained our lives and given them meaning. God deals gently with the ignorant and wayward. God is patient with our pretensions, seeking always to welcome us home to true community. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

PROCLAMATION

CHILDREN'S SERMON

(Children are invited to come forward to the pulpit area for the Children's Sermon. Afterward, they may return to their parent or guardian or leave the sanctuary for Godly Play.)

***HYMN 634**

"To God Be the Glory"

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Lesson: Psalm 21:1-7

Susan Schlecht

(pew Bible, *Old Testament*, page 615)

Second Lesson: Mark 10:17-31

Dr. Dawn Conti

(pew Bible, *New Testament*, page 56)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

"Camels and Needles"

Dr. Dawn Conti

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

(concluding with) **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

RESPONSE

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"O Taste and See"

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Chancel Choir

(1872-1958)

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is: blest is the man that trusteth in him.

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 838

"Standing on the Promises"

PROMISES

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Postlude on a Theme by Orlando Gibbons"

Christopher Tambling

(b. 1964)

The congregation is invited to come forward and stand by the organ console.

The minister is available at the door as you leave.