

Sunday Worship

September 20, 2020

Order of Worship



Music for Gathering “Peace Flowing Like A River”

James Kevin Gray

Words of Gathering

Rev. Lee Gray

Proclamation of Peace

Tricia Miller & Scarlett Goodson

From Isaiah 2:1-4

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

In the last days

the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established

as the highest of the mountains;

it will be exalted above the hills,

and all nations will stream to it.

Many peoples will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,

so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion,

the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He will judge between the nations

and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares

and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,

nor will they train for war anymore.

Hymn

“O God of Every Nation”

ELLACOMBE

O God of every nation, Of every race and land,

redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.

Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,

in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.

Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,

when hatred and division give way to love and peace,

till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign

and Christ shall rule victorious O'er all the world's domain.

Scripture Reading

Chase Bailey

Ephesians 2:13-22

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Lighting Candles of Peace

Rev. Allison Benfield

Light your candle, and light it every day as a reminder of the
Important work God has called us to do.

- One: We gather with those who have eyes to see, and hearts that are led by God's Spirit.
- All: God is birthing peace into the world.
- One: We submit ourselves to God's plan made manifest through Christ.
- All: God is birthing peace into the world, through our words, thoughts and actions
- One: Let there be peace on earth,
- All: **and let it begin with us.**

Prayer of Peace & Unity

Rev. Allison Benfield

A Word About the Joy of Giving

Phillips Bragg

Visual Meditation

J. Kevin Gray

Hymn

“In Christ There is No East or West”

HYFRYDOL

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one community of love through the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord close binding human kind.

In Christ now meet both east and west in him meet south and north;
all loving hearts are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

Message

“Waging Peace”

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Commissioning the Scattered Church

Rev. Nate Dove

Closing Song

“Peace is Flowing Like a River”

James Kevin Gray

Peace is flowing like a river,
flowing out of you and me.
Flowing out into the desert,
setting all the captives free.

Love is flowing like a river.

Postlude

J Noel Lance, organist

St. John's Baptist Church
Charlotte, North Carolina