

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday, October 17, 2021 | The God of Active Faith

Please silence all electronic devices.

Gathering Music J. Noel Lance

We invite you to take a moment to open your heart to the living God! So many distractions are around us, so much noise is within us. Let's center our spirits, so we can honor God with our whole hearts. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts lead us to truly worship our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Turning our backs to the hubbub and chaos, our minds and hearts now center on the Lord our God.

Song of Gathering Wesley Watts
Holy Ground Geron Davis

As we walk through the door, we sense God's presence, and we know this is a place where love abounds. We have gathered here as God's anointed people, and we are standing in God's presence on holy ground

Refrain:
We are standing on holy ground, and we can feel God's mighty spirit all around. Let us praise Jehovah now, for we are standing in God's presence on holy ground.

**Congregation invited to sing on the repeat*

Greeting Rev. Dennis W. Foust PhD

***Prayerful Call to Worship** Dr. Foust

ONE: God, You are the power of liberation,
ALL: calling your servant Moses to lead your people into freedom, and giving him the wisdom to proclaim your holy vision.

ONE: Be our passover from the land of injustice,
ALL: be the light that leads us to the perfect rule of love, that we may be citizens of Your unfettered reign; we ask this through Jesus Christ, the pioneer of our salvation. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** *Be Thou My Vision*
Chalice Hymnal No. 595, verses 1 & 3 SLANE

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.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures Joanne Compton
Exodus 3:1-6

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in

a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

ONE: This is the written word of God for the people of God.
ALL: Thanks be to God!

Song of Calling Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Our God, You Called to Moses AURELIA

ONE: Our God, you called to Moses to set your people free. What wrongly some suppose is: he answered easily. "I'm not the one you're seeking!" he seemed instead to say. "My strength is not in speaking; God, find another way!"

Choir: And yet, O Lord, you told him to trust in what you said. Your strength would surely hold him through all those days ahead. Though many would oppose him, by your own name he'd know: You were the one who chose him to help your people go.

ALL: You call each congregation to serve those lost and poor. We doubt our own vocation; we ask, "Lord, are you sure?" Yet you give gifts for sharing, you show us what to say. Your Spirit gives us daring to serve Christ every day.

Offertory Prayer Betsy Almond

Offertory Anthem Chancel Choir
The 23rd Psalm J. Kevin Gray

***Doxology** OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heavenly host:
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Moment for Reflection

As Moses saw and felt the presence of God in the burning bush, take these moments to reflect in the moments when you have seen the God vibrantly active in the world and in your life. Call upon that memory and let it guide you into a place where you can more easily see God at work in these moments.

ALL Sing:
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings,
I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

The Church at Prayer Dick Hester

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.

Prayer Concerns
Andrew Adair, Shirley Ballard, Katherine Barr, Carol Drye, Betty Fuller, Polly Hull, Jean Hutson, Barbara Ledford, Tish Philemon, Gene & Carol Poole, Viorica Secere, Don Swofford, Elma Thomas

Sympathy to Mark McNeill in the passing of his grandmother, Kada McNeill, on September 28, 2021 at the age of 102.

Prayers for our world, especially those living in the wake of hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, COVID-19, and global conflicts

Solo J. Kevin Gray
God of This City Boyd, McCann, Jordan, Comfort, Kernoghan, Bleakley

You're the God of this city. You're the King of these people.
You're the Lord of the whole world, You are.
You're the light in this darkness. You're the hope to the hopeless.
You're the peace to the restless, You are.
There is none like You God.

For greater things have yet to come;
And greater things are still to be done in this city.
Greater things have yet to come;
And greater things are still to be done here.

You're the Lord of creation, the Creator of all things.
You're the King above all kings, You are.
You're the strength in the weakness, You're the love to the broken.
You're the joy in the sadness, You are.

For greater things have yet to come;
And greater things are still to be done in this city.
Where glory shines from hearts alive
with praise for You and love for You in this city.

Message Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
When the Lord Saw That Moses Had Turned Aside to See

***Hymn of Discipleship** *The Church of Christ in Every Age*
Chalice Hymnal No. 475, verses 1 & 5 WAREHAM

The church of Christ, in every age, beset by change but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.

We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord,
to care for all, without reserve, and spread Christ's liberating word.

Commissioning the Scattered Church Dr. Foust

Postlude J. Noel Lance