

**August 22, 2021**

**Order of Service**

**Gathering for God's Word**

Prelude

Choral Introit

#314, "Christ Be Our Light," vs. 1, 2, 5

Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
Longing for truth, we turn to You.  
Make us Your own, Your holy people  
Light for the world to see.

Refrain:

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in Your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

Many the gifts, many the people  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another  
Making Your kingdom come.

Welcome & Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing of the Bell

Call to Worship

[Based on Colossians 1:15-17]

Leader: Come and worship Jesus Christ together.

**People: He is the visible image of the invisible God, the firstborn of creation, the eternal God, the one through whom all things were created, and in whom all things are held together.**

Leader: This is our God!

**People: Praise the Lord!**

Leader: Let us worship his holy name .

**Preparing for God's Word**

Hymn of Adoration

#2, "Come Thou Almighty King"

Come, Thou Almighty King,  
Help us Thy name to sing,  
Help us to praise.  
Father, all glorious,  
O'er all victorious,  
Come, and reign over us,  
Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou incarnate Word,  
Merciful, mighty Lord  
Our prayer attend:  
Come, and Thy people bless,  
And give Thy word success;  
Spirit of holiness,  
On us descend.

Come, holy Comforter,  
Thy sacred witness bear  
In this glad hour:  
Thou who Almighty art,  
Now rule in every heart,  
And ne'er from us depart,  
Spirit of power.

To Thee, great One in Three,  
Eternal praises be  
Hence evermore.  
Thy sov'reign majesty  
May we in glory see,  
And to eternity  
Love and adore.

Prayer of Confession

[Inspired by Romans 7]

*[time of silent confession]*

**All: God, we confess that we don't always understand our own actions. Lord, we clearly know what is right—what you expect of us— but we don't always live up to those expectations. We also clearly know what is wrong—the thoughts and actions that hurt others and offend you— but we**

**often catch ourselves doing these things anyway. Forgive us, Gracious God! Through Jesus Christ our Lord, set us free from the sin that controls us and help us live more like your people; understanding that everything we have in life comes from you.**

#### Assurance of Pardon

[Based on Psalm 145:8, 14]

Leader: Hear the Good News. As the people of God we know that our Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry, and filled with unfailing love.

**People: When we stumble, he is there to catch us; when we are weighed down, he is there to lift us up.**

Leader: Because of Christ, we can be at peace: our sins are forgiven.

**People: Praise God.**

### Hearing God's Word

#### Blessing of the Backpacks

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings "Jesus Loves Me." After the Children's Message, the children may return to sit with their families.

#### Hymn of Preparation

#368, "We Fall Down"

We fall down  
We lay our crowns  
At the feet of Jesus  
The greatness of  
Mercy and love  
At the feet of Jesus

And we cry holy, holy, holy  
We cry holy, holy, holy  
We cry holy, holy, holy  
Is the lamb

#### Prayer of Illumination

#### New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 4: 12-19

12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will

the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"  
19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

#### Sermon

"Exiles Filled With Hope... Backward Blessings"

### Responding to God's Word

#### Affirmation of Faith

[Apostles Creed]

**People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### Hymn of Response

#697, "Take My Life"

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 power as Thou shalt choose,  
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

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.

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.

#### Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

[particular prayers]

Leader: Heavenly Father, full of mercy,

**People: Hear us as we pray.**

#### The Lord's Prayer

**All: 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.  
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.**

#### Choral Anthem

"Written in Red"

## Union Presbyterian Choir

### Benediction

#### Benediction Response

#581, "Glory Be to the Father"

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen. Amen.

### Postlude