

Mount Vernon United Methodist Church

January 9, 2022

Greeting and Welcome of Visitors

PRELUDE

“Morning Has Broken” (Arr. Mark Hayes)

Juliet Cho

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God is with us always and calls us each by name.

When we pass through difficulties and stress,

God is with us and calls us by name.

When we are discouraged and feel lost and alone,

God is with us and calls us by name, and heals us.

Blessed be God who knows us and calls us by name. Amen.

* OPENING HYMN 529

“How Firm a Foundation”

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word! What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow; for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

4. "When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply; the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

5. "The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

*MORNING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Divine Spirit, descend upon us this day, as you descended upon Jesus on the day of his baptism. In the midst of our brokenness, we long to touch the healing of your Spirit, as you touch us with your love. In the presence of evil all around us, we yearn to be protected by the holy fire of your sustaining Spirit. As we remember, with gratitude, our baptism this day, remind us that we are a people of the water— a people made one and whole, through the Spirit made known in Christ Jesus. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go ”

Megan Gould

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;

I give Thee back the life I owe,

That in Thine ocean depth its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Light that follows all my way, I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seeks me through the pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee.
I trace the rainbow through the rain, And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

O cross that lifts up my head, I dare not ask to hide from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, And from the ground there blossoms red,
Life that shall endless be.

O Love that will not let me go.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 1:12-20

¹² I want you to know, beloved, that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; ¹⁴ and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear.

¹⁵ Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. ¹⁶ These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel; ¹⁷ the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. ¹⁸ What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰ It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Joy Is My Strength"

Jae Cho

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881

The Apostles' Creed

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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at 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 Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*GLORIA 70

**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.**

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY SONG “Es ist ein Ros’ entsprungen” (Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming)
(Johannes Brahms) *Juliet Cho*

*DOXOLOGY 94 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sky-shattering God, we confess that we have not always paid much attention to the baptism of Jesus, but viewed it as a nice story which begins Jesus' ministry. We don't always see ourselves as standing in that long line of those marked for service; and therefore it is easy for us to dismiss this as a nice story and nothing more. Yet you have called us by name, knowing each of us, and loving us. We are astonished by this. We know that we have behaved in very unloving ways and in some behaviors which do not promote your love and peace. Forgive us for our blindness. Turn us around. Help us to be people who not only recognize the light, but who are willing to live in that light, bringing help to others in your name. For we pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

People of God, you are known and loved by the Creator. You are marked as God's chosen ones to bring hope and peace to others. Be at peace and live in hope.
Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN 89 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

**1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!**

**2. All thy works with joy surround
thee, earth and heaven reflect thy
rays, stars and angels sing around
thee, center of unbroken praise.**

**Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.**

**3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.**

**4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us,
binding all within its span.**

**Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward,
in the triumph song of life.**

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing” (Arr. Mark Hayes)

Juliet Cho