

# First Church at Worship

THE OPENING VOLUNTARY

Johann Pachelbel

*By Waterside in Babylon*

\* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

\* THE GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

The risen Christ is with us.

**Praise the Lord!**

\* THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 117

*St. Anne*

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

\* THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

~ WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD ~

THE FIRST LESSON

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." <sup>10</sup>He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

<sup>13</sup>He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. <sup>14</sup>He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

This is the word of God for the people of God

**Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalms 16

*Maryton*

**O Lord, my portion and my cup,  
You make my lot always secure;  
My boundaries close a pleasant land,  
Indeed my heritage is sure.**

**You show me, Lord, the path of life,  
With you I find fullness of joy;  
The pleasures found at your right hand  
Are those which time cannot destroy.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

<sup>1</sup>For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

<sup>13</sup>For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. <sup>14</sup>For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup>If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

<sup>16</sup>Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup>envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup>By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

\* THE SEQUENCE HYMN No. 500

*Morecambe*

*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

*vs. 1-2*

\* THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 9:51-62

<sup>51</sup>When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup>And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; <sup>53</sup>but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup>When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" <sup>55</sup>But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup>Then they went on to another village.

<sup>57</sup>As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>58</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." <sup>59</sup>To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup>But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." <sup>61</sup>Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." <sup>62</sup>Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

\* THE SEQUENCE HYMN No. 500

*Morecambe*

*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

*vs. 4-5*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Mr. Josh

SERMON

Rev. Kyle Randle

~ WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL ~

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Martin Neary

\* PRESENTATION OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Doxology No. 95

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. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AND FAREWELL

*(Josh)* I thank you, the members and friends of First United Methodist Church, for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you. I am grateful for the ways my gifts have been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

**We receive your thankfulness and accept that you now leave to minister to St. James United Methodist Church. We express our gratitude for your time among us. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave with your departure.**

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting, we give you thanks for cherished memories and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions. Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

**Amen.**

