Downtown Presbyterian Church Order of Worship for May 10, 2020 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Opening Voluntary	My Heart Ever Faithful Ann Landis Jetton, violin	J.S. Bach	
Welcome			
Call to Worship	1 Peter 2:4-7a, 9-10, alt.	Ann Landis Jetton	
Now we are coming to Christ as to a living stone. Even though this stone was rejected by humans, from God's perspective it is chosen, valuable. We ourselves are being built like living stones into a spiritual temple. We are being made into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. The prophet Isaiah wrote, "Look! I am laying a cornerstone in Zion, chosen, valuable. The person who believes in that one will never be shamed." So God honors us, we who believe. We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy community, a people who are God's own possession. We have become this people so that we may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called us out of darkness into Christ's amazing light. Once we weren't a people, but now we are God's people. Once we hadn't received mercy, but now we have received mercy.			
Friends, sisters, brother – let u	is sing of our blessings and salvation!		
Hymn	"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" Amy Finka, cantor		
Gathering Prayer			
We rush to defend the issues t	ear the cries of those in need and you urg	ge us to respond.	

We are shut behind doors now, aching to come out,

but we know that when we do, we will hesitate to share your good news. Forgive us, Holy One.

We lay the garments of our foolishness at your feet,

so you might clothe us in grace and hope.

Give us the confidence to follow Jesus,

even when our rational minds have yet to catch up with him,

the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Assurance of God's Grace May the peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

Announcements

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Acts 7:54-60

Once the council members heard these words, they were enraged and began to grind their teeth at Stephen. But Stephen, enabled by the Holy Spirit, stared into heaven and saw God's majesty and Jesus standing at God's right side.

He exclaimed, "Look! I can see heaven on display and the Human One standing at God's right side!"

At this, they shrieked and covered their ears. Together, they charged at him, threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses placed their coats in the care of a young man named Saul.

As they battered him with stones, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, accept my life!" Falling to his knees, he shouted, "Lord, don't hold this sin against them!" Then he died.

Sermon

Rev. Mike Wilson

Special Music	"Deep in the Shadows of the Past"	Annabeth McClelland Gay, 1952
	Amy Finka, soprano	

Deep in the shadows of the past, far out from settled lands, some nomads traveled with their God across the desert sands. The dawning hope of humankind by them was sensed and shown: a promise calling them ahead, a future yet unknown.

While others bowed to changeless gods, they met a mystery, invisible, without a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL BE"; and by their tents, around their fires in story, song, and law, they praised, remembered, handed on a past that promised more.

From Exodus to Pentecost the promise changed and grew, while some, remembering the past recorded what they knew, or with their letters and laments, their prophecy and praise, recovered, kindled, and expressed new hope for changing days.

For all the writings that survived, for leaders, long ago, who sifted, copied, and preservedthe Bible that we know, give thanks, and find its story yet our promise, strength, and call, the model of emerging faith, alive with hope for all.

- Brian Wren, 1973; rev. 1994

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

"Fairest Lord Jesus" Amy Finka, cantor

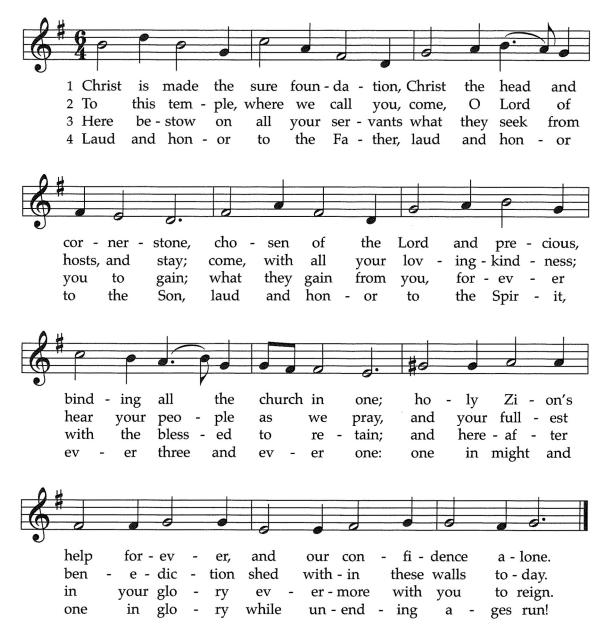
Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Prelude in A Major, BWV 536

J.S. Bach

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation



Although this ancient text has often been used at church dedications, the first stanza clearly refers to the people of God and the second to the place where they meet. The stately and soaring tune is aptly named for the edifice where the composer served as organist and is buried.

TEXT: Latin, 7th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851, alt. MUSIC: Henry Purcell, c. 1680; adapt. Ernest Hawkins, 1843 WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7

Fairest Lord Jesus



Franz Liszt used this melody for a "Crusaders' March" in an oratorio, but this hymn had nothing to do with the Crusades. No record of the German text exists before the middle of the 17th century or of the Silesian folk melody before the first half of the 19th century.