

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 us sing of our blessings and salvation!*

Hymn

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"
Amy Finka, cantor

Gathering Prayer

*Hear the brokenness of our lives, O God.
We feel powerless when we hear the cries of those in need and you urge us to respond.
We rush to defend the issues that matter to us,
 but lose focus when you call us to be your holy people.
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 preserved the 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



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
4 Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, laud and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; come, with all your lov - ing - kind - ness;
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
to the Son, laud and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as we pray, and your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

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

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Rul - er of the

na - ture, O thou of God to earth come
 wood - lands, robed in the bloom - ing garb of
 moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry
 na - tions, Son of God and Son of

down, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I
 spring. Je - sus is fair - er; Je - sus is
 host. Je - sus shines bright - er; Je - sus shines
 Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
 ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

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.