The Downtown Presbyterian Church Order of Worship for August 30, 2020 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Opening Voluntary

Fughetta on *Duke Street* tune used for "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun" William Taylor, organ **Richard Wienhorst**

Welcome

Call to Worship

"Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun" Ryan Norris, cantor

Prayer of Renewal

led by Betty & Conn McConnell

In sorrow so deep we cannot find our way out, God cradles us in comfort. In moments so dark, we stumble over ourselves, God lights the way; In joy which cascades into our souls, God fills us with healing. Even when we cannot see it, God's hope is all around us, surrounding us with healing. Like a bush that burns and is not consumed, let us not grow weary; let us find the joy and thanksgiving in every day. Thanks be to God!.

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of God's Grace

May the peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

Announcements

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Exodus 3:1-15

read by Holly Kellar

Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro, Midian's priest. He led his flock out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called Horeb. The LORD's messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn't burn up. Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up.

When the LORD saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"

Moses said, "I'm here."

Then the Lord said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground." God continued, "I am the God of your father, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. Now the Israelites' cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. So get going. I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" God said, "I'll be with you. And this will show you that I'm the one who sent you. After you bring the people out of Egypt, you will come back here and worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I now come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they are going to ask me, 'What's this God's name?' What am I supposed to say to them?"

God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. So say to the Israelites, 'I Am has sent me to you." God continued, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how all generations will remember me.

Scripture Reading

Romans 12:9-21

Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home. Bless people who harass you—bless and don't curse them. Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. Consider everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don't think that you're so smart. Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good.

If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people. Don't try to get revenge for yourselves, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. It is written, Revenge belongs to me; I will pay it back, says the Lord. Instead, If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. By doing this, you will pile burning coals of fire upon his head. Don't be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good.

Sermon

Rev. Mike Wilson

Special Music

"Shall Tribulation or Distress" Ryan Norris, tenor

Shall tribulation or distress, shall persecution, fire or sword, or any peril of the world

— or even death, or even death shall any power of earth or heaven divide us from your love, O Christ?

No, neither angel host nor thrones, nor height or depth of evil's reach, nor present things, nor things to come — not even death, not even death — not any power of earth or heaven can part us from your love, O Christ.

Shall illness, hunger or despair, shall lonely grief or anxious fears, or deeds of hatred and disdain — or even death, or even death shall any power of earth or heaven divide us from your love, O Christ?

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

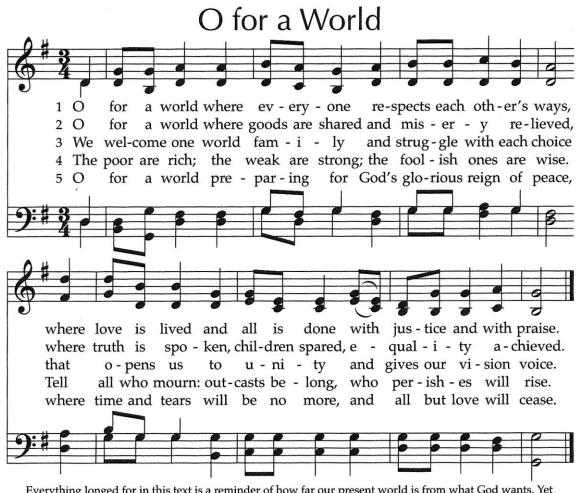
"O For a World" Ryan Norris, cantor

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

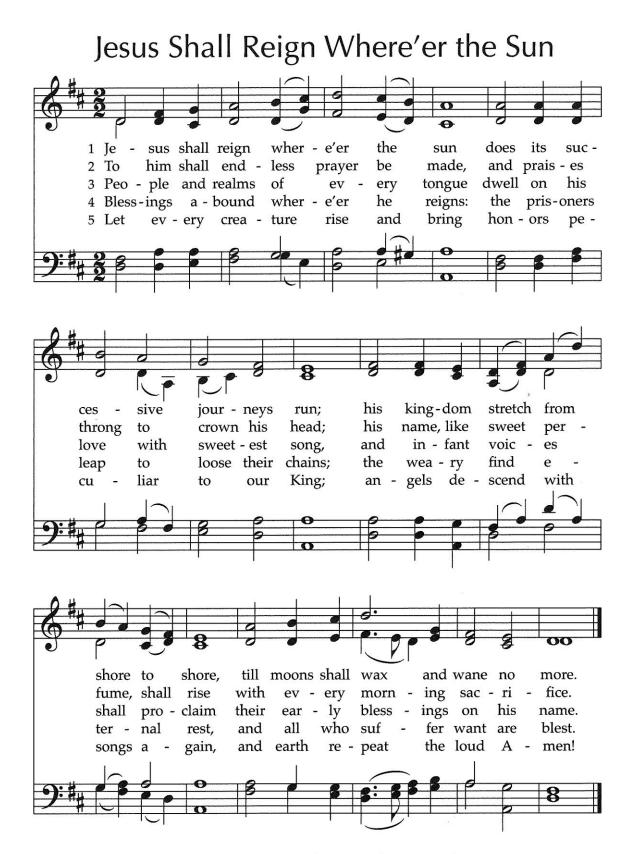
Paean

Gordon Young



Everything longed for in this text is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical *shalom*.

TEXT: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987 MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839 Text © 1990 Medical Mission Sisters AZMON CM



This hymn is a classic example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72:5–19, by turning their messianic language to New Testament equivalents. The tune was at first nameless and anonymous, but is now called by the address of the supposed composer.