



Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

A Service of Word and Sacrament

Hicks Memorial Chapel

Thursday, December 8, 2016

GATHERING

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. John Ferguson

*Opening Sentences

based on Isaiah 35:1-10

Leader: Leave your exile behind; God is calling us home.

***People:* We'll follow the Way through the desert.**

Leader: Enter the desert without fear;

God's water will quench our thirst.

***People:* We'll walk the Highway of God's people.**

Leader: Travel the Highway with joy; God is leading to life in abundance.

***People:* We'll strengthen weak hands, and support feeble knees;**

We'll encourage the fearful and calm the anxious;

Rejoice! Be strong! God is with us!

Leader: Come, let us worship!

*Opening Prayer

based on Matthew 11:3-5

***People:* O God, we come today**

echoing John the Baptist's question to your Beloved Child:

"Are you the one who is to come?"

Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the answer for ourselves:

In the work of justice: Christ!

In the practice of mercy: Christ!

In good news for the poor: Christ!

In the vision of peace: Christ!

Make us ready, with open hearts and joyful spirits,

to follow in Christ's Way. Amen.

*Opening Song

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

GtG #104

*please rise in body and/or spirit

*Prayer of Confession

based on James 5:7-10

Leader: Oh God, you call us to patience and diligence
in the painstaking work of your Reign,
But we get discouraged and give up too soon.

***People:* Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Oh God, you call us to collaborate in community
in the painstaking work of your Reign,
But we neither trust nor honor the gifts of others.

***People:* Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: Oh God, you call us to be full of joyful confidence
in the painstaking work of your Reign,
But we burden ourselves with anxiety and fear.

***People:* Lord, have mercy.**

silent prayer and confession

Leader: Forgive us, O God, and lead us in the ways of patience, community, and joy.

***People:* Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: Jesus, savior from sin, is present with us
in the painstaking work of the Reign of God
forgiving our weakness,
rebuilding our relationships,
restoring our joy.

***People:* Thanks be to God!**

*The Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

***People:* And also with you.**

A sign of Christ's peace may be exchanged by all.

THE WORD

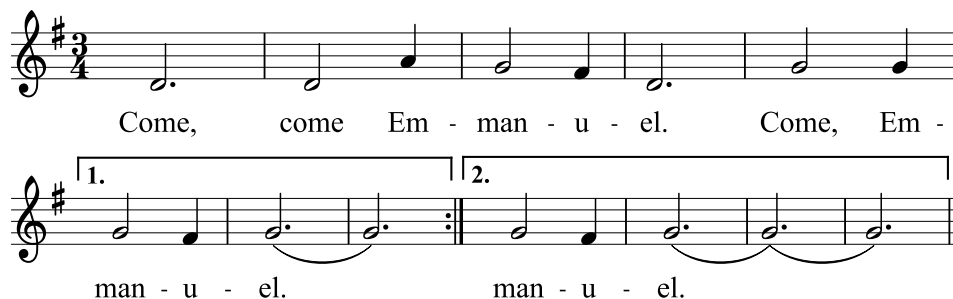
Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response



Text and Music: James J. Chepponis

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:46b-55

Leader: This is the good news.

***People:* Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you**
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.
People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**
Leader: Holy God, our loving Creator,
close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star ...
... as we unite our voices with the entire family
of your faithful people everywhere, singing:

Sanctus

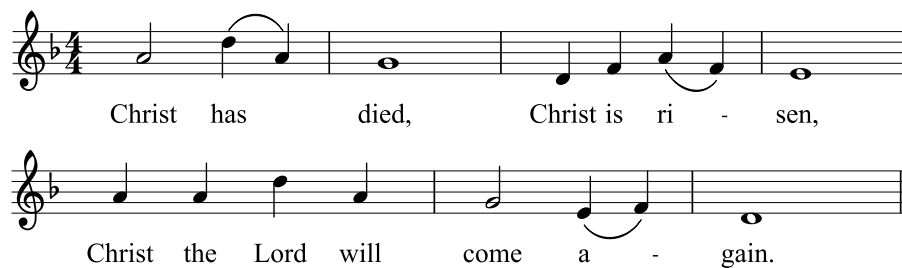
PICARDY



Leader: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion ...
... Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation

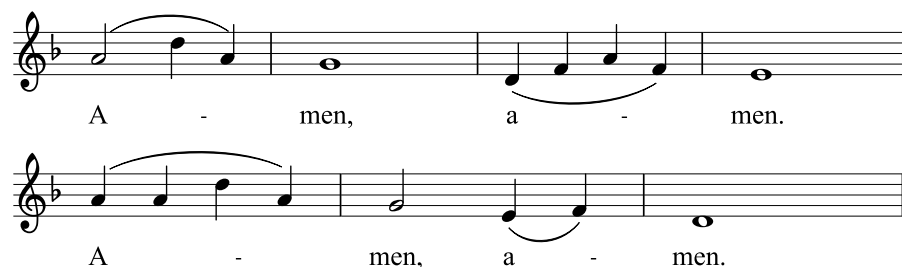
PICARDY



Leader: Holy One, show forth among us
the presence of your life-giving Word and Holy Spirit ...
... eternal God, now and forever.

Great Amen

PICARDY



The Lord's Prayer

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing of the Elements

*All baptized believers are invited to participate.
The bread is gluten-free so that all may partake of one loaf.
Please come forward as the servers turn toward your section.*

Song during Communion

Come, Come Emmanuel

GtG #91

Prayer of Thanksgiving

People: Bountiful God,
we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table
by granting us the presence of Christ.
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,
and send us forth into the world in courage and peace,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SENDING

***Closing Hymn**

*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout
(Canticle of the Turning)*

GtG #100

***Blessing**

Postlude

Tell Out My Soul

arr. Paul Manz

*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of His word;
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.*

*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His Name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age to same;
His holy Name--the Lord, the Mighty One.*

Words: *Song of Mary (Magnificat)* (Luke 1:46-56); Timothy Dudley-Smith Words © 1962,
Renewed. 1990 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188.

Worship Notes

Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Confession, and Pardon come from
Service Prayers for the Third Sunday of Advent, written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain, Minister for Faith
Formation, Curator of Worship and Liturgical Arts, Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ.

The Eucharist setting to the hymn tune PICARDY was arranged by Kimberly Bracken Long.

Leaders in Worship

Rev. Dr. Leanna Fuller

Corey Rugh

✦ ✦ ✦

Kendra Buckwalter Smith, *worship coordinator*

Michael P. Frank III, *chapel musician*

D. Mark Blank, *audiovisual technician*