

October 31, 2021 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Ringling of the Bell

Opening Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 257 - The tune for our opening hymn is entitled Hyfrodol. It is in the public domain and was written by Rowland Prichard, a Welsh composer, in 1844. This tune is the basis for three hymns in the NCH. The text that relates to our reading from Hebrews opens with "Alleluia! Gracious Jesus! Yours the scepter, yours the throne!"

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Listen and hear, all you people of the book! There is one God who created all time and space.

Congregation: Our hope is in God who made heaven and earth. All creatures of the land and sea come from God.

Liturgist: You shall love God with all your heart and soul. You shall honor God with all your mind and strength.

Congregation: We will praise God for as long as we live. We will sing of God's glory all through our lives.

Liturgist: A second commandment is like the first: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Congregation: God watches over strangers and widows and orphans. We honor God by honoring these, our sisters and brothers.

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 311 - With a connection to today's Gospel, "Renew You Church." The final two verses end with "Teach us God, how to pray" and "Teach us God, how to love!"

Confession of Sin

We have not kept faith with you, righteous God. There are so many distractions that occupy our time! There are so many groups to claim our loyalty. There are so many activities that bid for our attention. Even the church involves us in busyness that keeps us from matters of greater importance. In these moments, we seek to know you and to be known by you, that in an honest exchange our relationship with you and with the people around us might be strengthened. In your name, and joining with you, we seek justice for the oppressed, food for the hungry, and healing for all. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Gloria Patri (Instrumental)

Old Testament Lesson – Ruth 1:1-18

Hymn of Praise (Video) - "Love the Lord" based on the Gospel lesson, by Children's Ministry Deals

Children's Sermon

Epistle Lesson – Hebrews 9:11-14

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory - From Puerto Rico, this ecumenical hymn opens with "Jesus a new commandment has given us; that we should love each other just as our God loves us." The translated title for our offertory is "A New Commandment." (389)

Gospel Lesson – Mark 12:28-34

Sermon

Closing Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 453 - Inspired by stewardship and beauty of the earth, Albert Bayly wrote "When the Morning Stars Together" in 1969.

Benediction

Postlude