

Covenant Presbyterian Church
Sunday, September 13, 2020
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Prelude Concerto in a minor, BWV 593 *Johann Sebastian Bach*
I. Allegro II. Adagio

Call to Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee *Hymn to Joy*

Prayers of Invocation

Reading from Scripture Isaiah 43: 1-7 *NRSV*
But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Musical Selection I Want Jesus to Walk with Me *Spiritual, arr. Edward Boatner*
I want Jesus to walk with me, all along my pilgrim's journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
In my trials, Lord, walk with me, when my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me, when my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
Kathy Fisk, soprano

Reading from Scripture II Corinthians 5: 11-21 *NRSV*
Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences.

We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Sermon "We Believe . . . The Confession of 1967" Rev. Dr. Carol Ann Fleming

Musical Selection Softly and Tenderly Raymond Brown

*Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals He's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.
Come home, Come home, ye who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home.
Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me.
Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, passing from you and from me;
Shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming, coming for you and for me.
Oh! For the wonderful love He has promised, promised for you and for me;
Though we have sinned He has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.*
Kathy Fisk, soprano

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Benediction and Blessing

Postlude Trumpet Tune (from King Arthur) Henry Purcell

Understandings for Public Worship

Covenant is glad you feel comfortable to join us for public worship today.

We need not tell you these are unusual and apprehensive times we are living in these days. Covenant is working to make this public gathering as safe as possible, which is why we ask the following of you:

*Please wear facemasks while entering and exiting the sanctuary. You are welcome to wear them throughout the worship service, but it is not required.

*Know that the building beyond the sanctuary is closed to us. The only available restroom is in the Ambulatory.

*While we love our children and families, Church School, Godly Play, and Nursery care is suspended until further notice. Please keep young children with you at all times.

*Your Tithes and Offerings may be contributed at the stationary boxes near each entrance.

*For the time being, we will NOT be standing or singing hymns in the service.

Covenant appreciates that you take all items you brought with you when you depart and prays that this and future experiences of worship, while awkward, may still be meaningful.