



First Presbyterian Church of Natchez

Following
Christ.
Serving
Everyone.



269 Lead On, O King Eternal!

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents shall be our home.
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
 for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears;

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong,
 for not with swords' loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums;
 your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light.

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
 with deeds of love and mer - cy the heaven-ly king-dom comes.
 The crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Not everything that looks like a battle ends up being one. This text, written for a seminary graduation, works well with its martial tune in the first stanza; but later stanzas turn from such imagery and focus on "deeds of love and mercy" and courage for life's journey.

Minute for Mission

Dr. Charles Borum

Offering our lives in the life of Christ's church

Join in the ministries of your church as God calls you!

Confession of Sin

The congregation joins in Call to Confession and Unison Prayer of Confession.

After silent prayer, all sing the *Kyrie (Lord, Have Mercy)*

Call to Confession

Titus 2:11-14

Minister: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

All: He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. In humility and faith, let us confess our sin to God.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that our hearts are not always in the right place; our lives do not always reflect the light of Christ that you shine generously upon us. Forgive us those times when we do not stop to help our neighbors, when worldly ways overcome what we should do as disciples of Christ. Strengthen our resolve and our actions so that we might live in your way, loving you with heart, mind, and soul; loving one another and serving in the name of your Son Jesus Christ.

Time for Silent Confession

Lord, Have Mercy upon Us
(Choir and congregation sing.)

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -

(C) (B) (Cmaj7) (Em) (Bm7) (Em)
D^b C D^bmaj7 Fm Cm7 Fm

on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in a key signature of three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. Chord symbols are provided below the notes, including (C) D^b, (B) C, (Cmaj7) D^bmaj7, (Em) Fm, (Bm7) Cm7, and (Em) Fm.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Psalm 32:1; First Peter 2:24-25

Minister: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Jesus Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. Friends, know that in Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

All: **Thanks be to God who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen.**

*Response Hymn 581

Gloria Patri

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
And to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

* Greeting and the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with all of you today.

All: **And also with you.**

THE WORD

A Time for Young Disciples

Children may then return to their seats or go to children's class.

Prayer of Illumination

Dr. Charles Borum, reader

First Reading: Acts 16:9-15

Pew Bible Page 165

Second Reading: Revelation 21:10; 22:1-5

Pew Bible Page 315

*Gospel Hymn 688, Verses 1, 2, & 3:

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

MORECAMBE

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart 688

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;
 4 Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh.
 5 Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;
 I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh.
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

This reflection on Galatians 5:25 was written by a literary Anglican clergyman whose preaching drew people of many social classes to one of the formerly poorer London churches. The tune was created for "Abide with Me" (no. 836) but more often appears with the present text.

Gospel Reading: John 14:23-29

Pew Bible Page 133

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Peace for Troubled Hearts”

Rev. Gandy

Affirmation of Our Faith

*Apostles’ Creed

Traditional

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (*debts/debtors*)

Traditional

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

Call for the Offering

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it. Psalm 24:1

With gladness, let us present the offering of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory

Awake, My Soul

Text: Philip Doddridge

Music: Shirley Whitecotton

Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve, and press with vigor on;

A heavenly race demands thy zeal; and an immortal crown.

A cloud of witnesses around hold thee in full survey;

Forget the steps already trod and onward urge thy way.

'Tis God's all animating voice that calls thee from on high:

'Tis His own hand presents the prize to thine aspiring eye.

Blest Savior introduced by Thee, have I my race begun:

And crowned with victory at thy feet, I'll lay my honors down.

*Response Hymn 609

Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures

Bm A D G D Bm E A D

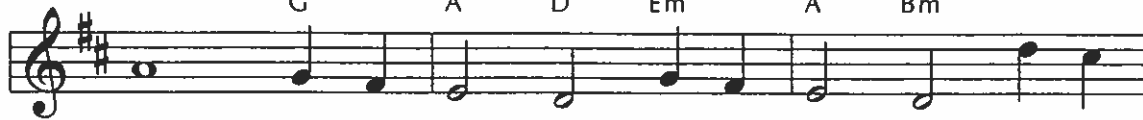


high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise



God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it

G A D Em A Bm



one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

Em D G A Em G A D



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

THE SENDING

*Hymn 295: *Go to the World!*

SINE NOMINE

*Benediction

*Postlude

The Archbishop's Fanfare

Francis Jackson

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Colonel and Mrs. Martin Brewer by Mr. and Mrs. Ron Jenkins.

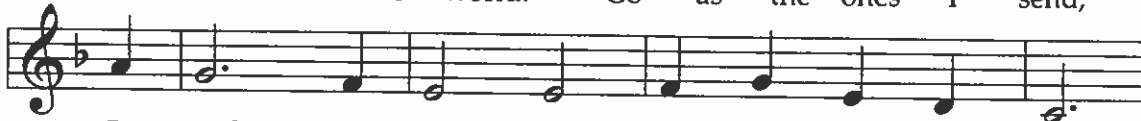
Music Notes: The prelude this morning is a lovely, reflective Chorale Prelude on the chant tune "*Quem Pastores*" (*He whom the shepherds praised*) by Canadian composer Healey Willan (1880-1968). The Anthem at the Offertory is *Awake, My Soul* by American composer Shirley Whitecotton, set to a familiar tune with choral organ accompaniment. The Postlude is the exuberant *Archbishop's Fanfare* by British organist, choir trainer, and composer Francis Jackson (1917-2022). This piece was written in 1961 for the enthronement of the Archbishop of York at Yorkminster Cathedral where Jackson was Organist and Master of the Choristers.

Go to the World!

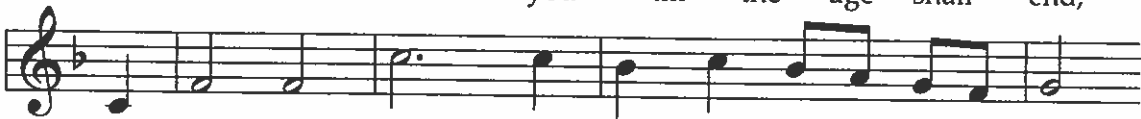
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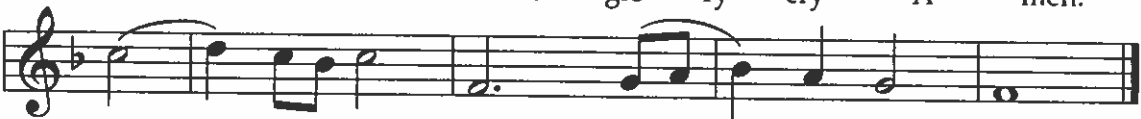
1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Based on Christ's great commission (Matthew 28:19-20), this text was written for a Convocation of Emmanuel College in Toronto, the largest theological school of the United Church of Canada, a denomination formed by the union of Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians.

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1985
MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
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SINE NOMINE
10.10.10 with alleluias

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor's Bible Study: Join the study Tuesday, May 24, at 11 a.m. in the parlor at Stratton Chapel. Scriptures will be Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; and John 17:20-26.

PW Luncheon: The Presbyterian Women's luncheon will be Wednesday, May 25, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. This is the last luncheon for this year.

Confirmation Class: The next confirmation class will be Wednesday, May 25, at 4 p.m. in the church library.

Mission Meeting: The Mission Committee will meet Thursday, May 26, at 5:30 p.m. in the church library.

Memorial Day: The Playschool and the church offices will be closed Monday, May 30, for Memorial Day.

Wonderful Wednesday: Wednesday evening begins with supper at 5:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and Bible study at 6 p.m. in the church library. There are games in the gym for those who do not attend the Bible study.

AA Meetings: Open Gates AA Meeting meets every Wednesday and Friday at 12 noon in the downstairs meeting room in Stratton Chapel. This is an open discussion meeting; anyone interested in attending is welcome!

Photo Gallery: Please consider donating a couple of hours to the museum as a docent. The exhibit is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

New Members Welcomed: If you are interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian, you will be warmly welcomed. The first step is to let the minister know of your interest. You may see her before or after worship; or call the church at 601-442-2581 to speak with her.

Pastoral Visits: If you have special needs and wish to share them with the minister, please plan a visit so that you can talk about what's going on in your life. Whether you need encouragement in your faith or guidance through a rough period of time, contact the minister at 601-442-2581; or see her before or after worship to inquire about visiting.

Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Pastor
Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist
Aretha Davis, Playschool Director
Pam McNeil, Office Administrator
Mary Ann Peoples, Financial Secretary
Deon Buford, Sexton

Officers of the Church

ELDERS:

Class of 2022: Marc Doyle, Rosemary Hall, Danna Mooney, Helen Smith
Class of 2023: Lane Feltus, Mary Lessley, Catherine Ratcliffe
Class of 2024: George Bates, Stratton Bull, Bobby Meason, Cara Moody

DEACONS:

Class of 2022: Sandra Burkes, Rusty Jenkins, Sarah Smith
Class of 2023: Ken Price, Ryan Sharp, Gwen Washington
Class of 2024: Kristen Abney, Everette Ratcliffe, Hubert Smith
Thank you to Charles Hall (Director), Lance Harris, Ryan Sharp,
and Jon Borum for livestreaming and video services.

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