Anthem *Lift Thine Eyes* Felix Mendelssohn
from "Elijah"

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *Prelude and Fugue in A minor (BWV 559)* Bach

You are invited to remain seated for the postlude or you may exit the pew when directed by the ushers.

If you have not already done so, please place your offering in the marked basket nearest the exit you use. We look forward to seeing you again next week.

A special thank you to our ushers!

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Betsy Conzelman, Beth Foley, Sue Jones, Susan Mabie, Kathy Nelson, Pat K. Rowlett

Further information on cover image:
"...when his (Tissot) carefully researched collection of 350 watercolors depicting the life of Jesus was first published as a book in 1896, it found a large and enthusiastic audience. No one who had followed his previous career could have anticipated that this painter of urban life in Paris and London would undertake the project of painting virtually every event in the Gospels.

The Life of Our Lord Jesus Christ project took nearly ten years to complete. When it was done, it chronicled the entire life of Jesus as recorded in the New Testament in a series of 350 watercolors. To research the project Tissot traveled to Egypt, Syria, and Palestine in 1886–87, and again in 1890.

While in the Holy Land he closely observed the landscape, the vegetation, the architecture, and the manner of dress, and filled sketchbooks with what he saw. He talked with rabbis and studied Talmudic literature as well as theological and historical volumes. He believed that there was still a remaining "aura" in the places where the Gospel events took place, and he spoke of having mystical experiences that added to his careful research. What he wanted to create was something as close as possible to an eyewitness account of the life of Jesus."
(from Terry Glaspey's "75 Masterpieces Every Christian Should Know")

"Get Thee Behind Me, Satan!" James Tissot, between 1886 and 1894, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

30 August 2020

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817
A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes covenant with all believers, First Presbyterian Church intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity, economic or educational status, or political affiliation

Order of Worship

30 August 2020

Prayer of Preparation

O God, the economy of the Kingdom may seem topsy-turvy. Something that is saved is claimed to be lost. What is forfeited on behalf of another is said to be found. What is given freely is said to be more credible than what is earned. What is stored for tomorrow may be consumed overnight. Indeed, to follow Christ does tend to change our perceptions. May our hearts and minds be changed by an encounter with our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Welcome and Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* DeCou

***Call to Worship** based on Romans 12:9-21

Let your love be genuine!

Let us love one another with mutual affection.

May we not lag in zeal. Rather, may we be ardent in spirit and serve the Lord.

We will rejoice in hope. We will be patient in suffering. We will persevere in prayer.

We rejoice with those who rejoice, and we weep with those who weep.

We will live in harmony with one another.

Let us not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

Together let us pray.

Holy God may this time of worship be a reminder of who you have called us to be in this world. Remind us once again of the beauty of your creation. The birds sing of your glory. The day's sun rises to honor you. The mountains owe their grandeur to your design. These examples remind us of how your creation is beautiful and you called it "good". May they serve as reminders that you clothe us as well, and you called us "very good" despite how we may feel.

In the name of Jesus Christ, let us worship God.

Anthem *Jesus Calls Us* Alexander/Jude

(You are invited to hum along)

Prayer of Confession

Forgive us, O God, when we hinder Christ's gospel. We distort the good news because we do not serve our neighbor. We seek safety rather than suffer for Christ. Our comfort comes before our confession; our allegiance is hindered, since we hide from commitment. Have mercy upon our misplaced devotion, and in Christ hear our confession as we seek to repent. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law

"'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37-39

Prayer of Illumination

Lesson Matthew 16:21-28

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Wearing the Clothes of Christ* The Rev. Bellis

***Affirmation of Faith** The Heidelberg Catechism (1563)

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death— to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven. In fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

(BC 4.001)