

## ORDER OF ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

October 18, 2020

### GREETING

### PRELUDE AND SILENT PRAYER

#### *O Day of Peace*

Charles Callahan (b.1951)

Monique Weiss Byrnes, organ

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**God of Love, God of Relationship, God of Community, when you created the world, you said, “Let Us...”**

You modeled how to be, and who to be, together;

**You are one, you are many. You are unity, you are community.**

Teach us to act in your image of community.

**Guide us to seek you out: in each other, for each other, in Community.**

### Hymn—#594 (NCH) *How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies*, v.1 & 2

How beautiful our spacious skies, our amber waves of grain;  
our purple mountains as they rise above the fruited plain.  
America! America! God’s gracious gifts abound,  
and more and more we’re grateful for life’s bounty all around.

Indigenous and immigrant, our daughters and our sons;  
O may we never rest content till all are truly one.  
America! America! God grant that we may be  
a sisterhood and brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

### Responsorial Litany for an Election (RC odds, EW evens)

#### Choral refrain

**Lord, guide us in truth and love**

**(1)Loving God, creator of this world who is our source of our wisdom and understanding, watch over this nation during this time of election. Help us to see how our faith informs our principles and actions.**

(2) We give thanks for the right to vote. Help us to hold this privilege and responsibility with the care and awareness it merits, realizing that our vote matters and that it is an act of faith.

**(3) Guide us through this election as a nation, state, and community as we vote for people to do work on our behalf and on the behalf of our communities. Help us to vote for people and ballot initiatives that will better our community and our world so it may reflect the values Christ taught us.**

(4) We pray for this nation that is deeply divided. May we come together for the common good and do as you have called us to do – to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you through creation.

**Lord, guide us in truth and love**

**(5) Let us act out of love, mercy and justice rather than out of arrogance or fear.**

(6) Help us create communities that will build your kingdom here on earth – communities that will protect the poor, stand up for the vulnerable, advocate for those who are not seen and heard, and listen to everyone's voice.

**(7) We pray for communities who are struggling with inequality, unrest, and fear. May we all work toward reconciliation with one another and with God.**

(8) May we listen in love, work together in peace, and collaborate with one another as we seek the betterment of our community and world.

**Lord, guide us in truth and love**

## ANTHEM

### *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*

Alan Bullard (b.1947)

Jaime Bonnie Riggs - soprano, Jamie Falzone - alto

Jonathan Zink - tenor, Connor Burke - bass

Monique Weiss Byrnes - conductor, organist

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green: the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell, the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all, but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree. I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile; under the shadow I will be of Jesus Christ the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

**OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE     Micah 6: 6-8**

With what shall I come before the LORD,  
     and bow myself before God on high?  
 Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
     with calves a year old?  
 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
     with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
 Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
     the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"  
<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
     and what does the LORD require of you  
 but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
     and to walk humbly with you.

**VOCAL SOLO*****The Sky Above the Roof***

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Jamie Falzone - alto

Monique Weiss Byrnes, organ

The sky above the roof is calm and sweet: a tree above the roof bends in the heat. A bell from out the blue drowsily rings: a bird from out the blue plaintively sings. Ah God! a life is here, simple and fair, murmurs of strife are here lost in the air. Why dost thou weep, O heart, poured out in tears? What hast thou done O heart, with thy spent years?

**NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE     Philippians 4:4-8**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

**SERMON        It's NOT a Taboo; Let's Talk Religion and Politics****Hymn—#594 (NCH) *How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies*, v.3**

How beautiful, sincere lament, the wisdom born of tears,  
 the courage called for to repent the blood-shed through the years.  
 America! America! God grant that we may be  
 a nation blessed with none oppressed, true land of liberty.

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**LORD'S PRAYER**—Chalice 307

**OFFERING****DEPARTING HYMN —#594 (NCH) *How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies*, v.4**

How beautiful, two continents, and islands in the sea  
 that dream of peace, nonviolence, all people living free.  
 America! America! God grant that we may be  
 a hemisphere where people here all live in harmony.

**BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE—*****Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer***

J. Bert Carlson (1937-2017)

Monique Weiss Byrnes, organ

***How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies*****MATERNA**

Text: Katherine Lee Bates (1859-1929), Miriam Theresa Winter (b.1938)

Music: Samuel Augustus Ward (1847-1903)

Katherine Lee Bates was born in Falmouth, Massachusetts. Her father was a pastor of a Congregational Church. He died when Katherine was an infant. Katherine graduated from Wellesley College with a Bachelors and a Masters in English. She became a full time English Professor and Head of the English Department at Wellesley College. Wellesley, Oberlin, and Middlebury Colleges awarded her honorary doctorate degrees. Bates wrote poetry, children's stories, textbooks, and travel books. The four verses of MATERNA were inspired by the beauty experienced during Bates' hike to the top of Pikes' Peak in Colorado.

Samuel Augustus Ward was born in Newark, New Jersey. He was an organist and a composer. Ward became the organist of Grace Episcopal Church in Newark after organ studies with many teachers in New York. He also began and conducted the Orpheus Club Choir in Newark. The tune MATERNA meaning "Mother", was originally composed by Ward in 1882 to accompany the words to the sixteenth century hymn, "**O Mother Dear, Jerusalem.**" It first appeared as this hymn in "The Parish Choir" in 1888.

Katherine Lee Bates' poem "America" was first published on July 4, 1895 in "The Congregationalist" newspaper. Bates revised the lyrics in 1904 and published it in the "The Boston Evening Transcript" and revised the poem one last time in 1913. Originally "**America the Beautiful**" was sung to many different folk tunes, "**Auld Lang Syne**" being the most common. When The National Federation of Music Clubs sponsored a 1926 contest to select music for Bates' poem, Ward's tune MATERNA prevailed! In 1993, Miriam Theresa Winter, a member of the editorial panel for "The New Century Hymnal", adapted and rewrote stanzas to include all of the Americas.

Musically,  
Monique Weiss Byrnes