

WELCOME, JOYS & CONCERNS

ORGAN PRELUDE

VOCAL CALL TO WORSHIP: **SURELY THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD**

[328 - M/H]

[Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place, I can feel his mighty power and his grace. I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face; surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.]

INTRO TO JEREMIAH

Today is the first day of the rest of our lives! Later in our worship, we will commission our Team who represent our Coordinating Team for The Jeremiah Initiative. God's Plan, God's Future and Our Hope. As a church we are taking a step of faith, seeking to live out God's plan here and now and to make disciples for Christ here and now. We embark on this journey to discover God's plan for us, here in this place..

HYMN OF PRAISE: **TO GOD BE THE GLORY**

To God be the glory, great things he hath done! so loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life gate that all may go in.

O Perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God; The vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son; But purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Chorus: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice.

Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, let the people rejoice.

O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son and give him the glory, great things he hath done.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Leader: We know the wrong turns we have taken, the poor choices that shape our lives, the mistakes that have hurt God and others. Let us confess our sins

to the One who leads us into life.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Taught by our culture to want everything, Comfort of the righteous, we confess that emptiness that sends us searching for still more. Our constant desire for greener pastures fills us with every lust and envy. Our belief that still waters are stagnant sends us thirsting for whitewater thrills and adventures. Our trust in the promises of the world turns us away from the shelter you offer.

Forgive us, Source of goodness and mercy. Call us back from our wayward lives, that we might find rest in your heart, healing from your hands, and unity in life together as disciples of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

MUSICAL MEDITATION THERE'S A SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord; there are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

[398 P/H] (overhead)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Pastor: Hear God's voice: I will walk with you in every moment; I fill you with my grace and hope; I know you and love you.

ALL: Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever! Amen.

GLORIA PATRI NO. 579

CHOIR ANTHEM "Majesty"

UNISON PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord. Amen

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

4-12

Old Testament: Jeremiah 1:

Epistle: Ephesians 4:17-32

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

*Gospel **Matthew 5: 1-16**

Pastor: This is the gospel of our Risen Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THIS MORNING'S MESSAGE: WHY JEREMIAH?

HYMN OF ADORATION: LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN [372-P/H]

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.]

A STATEMENT OF FAITH: [Apostle's Creed]

: "I believe in God the Father Almighty; Maker of Heaven and Earth; and in Jesus Christ His only (begotten) 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 from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sitteth at 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

JEREMIAH THEME SONG: "We're Goin" On A Journey"

We're goin on a journey; O won't you come and go with me?

Through mountains and through valleys and God I at the beginning and at the end.

COMMISSIONING OF THE JEREMIAH INITIATIVE TEAM

In a few minutes we will commission 10 members of our Jeremiah Initiative

Team. These individuals come from a cross section of our congregation representing the many facets of our church family. They have already embarked upon a personal journey that will affect the future of our church family.

Over the coming months you will be hearing lots of exciting news from this Team. You will be asked to participate in activities, forums, and surveys. And we hope that you will embrace this challenge as we move forward to find exactly what God's plan is for our church here in Summit Hill. As we sing our next hymn, let each and every one of us commit to this exciting journey.

HYMN: HERE I AM LORD [#593 M/H]

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

I the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. If will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

[Team members come forward as final chorus is sung]

Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

Pastor: As many of you were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (Gal 37-28)

All: There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave nor free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Pastor: Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Eph.4:1-6)

All: there is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our Calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and

father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. (From PCUSA Book of Occasional Services pp123 ff)

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

(Book of Order G-1.0200)

Pastor: We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

All: The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;

The maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

Pastor: The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship; our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility.

The grace bestowed upon each of you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ.

God has called you to this particular service as members of the Jeremiah Initiative Coordinating Team.

[A white candle, signifying Christ is placed on the table and lighted by Pastor]

Pastor: This candle signifies Christ. The Light of the world. Edith Wharton says "There are two ways of spreading light: The first is to be the candle, "As each member of our Jeremiah Initiative Team receives a lighted candle, we commission them to go and spread the gospel, making disciples of all the world.

[Candles are lit from the Christ candle and handed to each member]

By accepting this light you have agreed to work toward God's mission for our church. Are you willing to accept this challenge for the next three years?

Team: With God's guidance we will

Pastor: Will you pray for one another each day, being faithful and responsible to accomplish the duties and assignments given to you?

Team: With God's guidance we will.

Sung: [Repeat chorus of song]

Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart.

Pastor: [to the church family] The second way of spreading light is to be the mirror that reflects it. You have heard a commitment made to work toward God's mission for our church over the next three years. As members and friends of our church family we need to show our support as we work together with our Team in the coming months. Will you as members and friends of this church family strive to be the mirror reflecting the rays of new light being generated in this congregation? Will you support the team with your prayers, and to the best of your ability, the attendance and participation in scheduled events?

Congregation: With God's guidance we will.

Pastor: Will each and every one of you, as faithfully as possible, follow where God is leading; trusting in the Love and power of God for the future of this church family.

All: With God's guidance we will.

Commissioning Prayer

Pastor: Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us; and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of your calling. We thank you for leading these disciples from our congregation to this time and place. Establish them in your truth, and guide them by your Holy Spirit, that in your service they may grow in faith, hope, and love, and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen

All: Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called disciples and, by the Holy Spirit, made them one church to serve you. Let your Spirit rule your church, so that we may be joined in love and service to Jesus Christ,

who, having gone before us, is coming to meet us in the promise of your kingdom. Amen

Pastor: Let us pray. Father, we have taken a big step here today. We have committed to three years working with you, trusting in your guidance. Lead us in the way You would have us go. Give us strength in numbers and patience with each other. Lord, as we work together for the good of our church family, keep us ever mindful of your promise to Jeremiah: *“For surely I know the plans I have for you. Plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope;”* (Jeremiah 29:11 -14)

Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD’S PRAYER
Lead us, God of Goodness: lead us into those places where we discover your mercy waiting to nourish and restore our famished souls.

Lead us, Gentle Shepherd: lead us to those places where we have the joy of filling the emptiness of others,
because the table you have prepared is to be shared with all.

Lead us, Mercy's Mother: lead us on the right paths, and down the streets where we can do justice for all wronged by the world; lead us to the living waters, where we can fill our selves and then empty them for those parched by pain and loss.

Lead us, God in Community, Holy in One, as we pray as Jesus has taught us, saying,

Our Father . . .

PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHE AND OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: [#507 Emmanuel Reformed Church]

Bless Thou the gifts our hands have brought.

Bless Thou the work our hearts have planned.

Ours is the faith, the will, the thought.

The rest, O God, is in Thy hand. Amen

OFFERTORY PRAYER: [Unison]

Father, we come with our gifts today. We give freely to the advancement of your work within our family of believers. Make us faithful stewards of all you have placed in trust to each of us, as we work together to further your kingdom here in this place. Amen

As we leave this place today, let us proclaim the love of Christ till all the world knows who He is!

Join me now as we sing, “Lift High the Cross.”

HYMN OF DEDICATION: **LIFT HIGH THE CROSS** [371- P/H]

Lift, high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name. Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign. The host of God in unity combine.

Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears on the brow the seal of him who died. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.

So shall our son of triumph ever be; Praise to the Crucified for victory.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

COMMISSIONING: In the power of the Holy Spirit we now go forth into the world, to fulfil our calling as the people of God, the body of Christ.

* **BENEDICTION AND SHALOM**

Go in peace and love and care for one another in the name of Christ Jesus knowing that God is your shepherd and that you are his people
- and may God comfort you with his rod and his staff

- may the Lord Jesus call to you and lead you each and every day,

- and may the Holy Spirit tend with goodness and love,

till at last you sit at the table of God in the house that he has prepared for all his people.

Amen

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: **SHALOM TO YOU** [#666 M/H]

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.

May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.

In all your living and through your loving,

Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

PASSING OF PEACE OF CHRIST:

"WE're Goin' On a Journey" Used by permission of the author, Rev. Paul;
Sadler