

## Worship Service from First Presbyterian Church of Magnolia

Sunday, May 29th, 2016

*The liturgist and pastor will meet in the hall outside the choir room at about 10:40am. The liturgist will enter followed by the pastor. The pastor will step into the pulpit, welcome everyone, & make announcements...*

Conclude with this announcement and prayer:

**THIS IS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND....** and for most of us it has become just another holiday, a time to forget our troubles and indulge ourselves in the pleasures available to us. But it should be a time to remember. For our own good and for future generations we need to remember. Therefore before we do anything else, let us bow our heads in prayer and recall and give thanks for the sacrifice of those who paid the ultimate price so that we may enjoy the freedom and fun of this weekend--and every other day in our lives.

Let us pray... Almighty and eternal God, you who are, in truth, the Master of our Fate and the Captain of our Souls, we present for your blessing all who have fought the good fight, kept the faith, and finished their courses. Accept their labor, we pray, as done for your sake. Redeem their sacrifice, and let it accrue to the good of all people. Grant that though dead, they yet may live in our hearts.

Lest we forget, our Father, recall to us as well the endless wars that never ended war, the promised peace that seldom was peaceful, the dreams crushed, the hopes shattered, the innocence lost. By our worship at this time, prepare us, we pray, to walk in their footsteps. Make us makers of peace, lest forgetting what we need to remember, we render vain their sacrifice for us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The preacher will then ask...*

“Are there any other announcements or concerns of the church that need to be made known at this time?..... Thank you.”

*The preacher will take a seat.*

### PRELUDE

**Ms. Sharon Ard**

*After the Organ Prelude, the liturgist should step to the lectern and say,*

“Would you join me in reading the responsive call to worship adapted from Psalm 77 and printed in our bulletins?”

### CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Psalm 77)

I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; I will remember your wonders of old.

**I will meditate on all your work, & muse on your mighty deeds.**

Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God?

**You are the God who works wonders; you have displayed your might among the peoples.**

With your strong arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

**When the waters saw you, O God, they were afraid; the very deep trembled.**

The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered; your arrows flashed on every side.

**The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; Your lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled & shook.**

Your way was through the sea, your path, through the mighty waters; yet your footprints were unseen.

**You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses & Aaron.**

Let us worship God beginning with prayer...

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Let us pray... O God, your never-failing providence sets in order all things both in heaven and earth: Deliver us, we pray, from all hurtful things, and give us those things which are profitable for us. Speak to us your Word which gives us direction and purpose, and leads us to live the abundant life you intend for us through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Would all of you who are able please stand with me and join in singing our opening hymn, “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing!”, #466 in our hymnals.

*The liturgist should step back from the microphone for the hymn.*

\*HYMN OF PRAISE                      “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing!”                      *The Hymnal #466*

*After the hymn, the preacher will step into the pulpit and say...*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

When our self-indulgence would enslave us, when our arrogance would defeat us, when our fear would immobilize us, God calls us to repent, to lay aside our excuses, to seek pardon and freedom at their only source--the love of God, revealed by Jesus Christ. Let us confess before God and one another our failures and our need as we pray together the prayer of confession printed in our bulletins.

Let us pray...

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we are so preoccupied with things of little consequence that we cannot comprehend important matters when they confront us. You invite us to be your followers, but we are disconcerted by your call, for the requirements of discipleship are overwhelming. How can we be expected to choose conflict over peace, the unknown over the familiar, the hazardous over the safe? How can we dare to let go of what we presently value most? Forgive our holding back, and the self-protective reasons we give. Forgive our cowardice, our laziness, and our failure to trust in your Providence. Help us to amend our lives and reset our priorities in keeping with your perfect will, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*SILENT CONFESSION    *(Pause for about 30 seconds of silence.)*

\*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Brothers and sisters, Christ has set us free, not to use our freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but to serve lovingly one another. Let us follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ and live from this day forward in the promised realm of God. Friends believe the Good News!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

\*GLORIA PATRI

*The Hymnal #579*

***Glory be to the Father, & to the Son, & to the Holy Ghost;***

***As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen, Amen.***

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Having been reconciled to God through the grace of His Son, let us also be reconciled to one another and share Christ's peace. The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Share the peace of Christ with others as you will.*

*After a few moments, liturgist will step into the lectern and say...*

**“At this time I want to invite all of our younger friends to come forward for a Word from the Lord brought to them by Ms. Karen.”**

*The liturgist will take a seat.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*(All Singing)*

***Jesus friend so kind and gentle, little ones we bring to thee;  
Grant to them thy dearest blessing. Let thine arms around them be;  
Now enfold them in thy goodness, from all danger keep them free.***

*As the children leave the front, the preacher will enter the pulpit and say...*

“Let all of us who are able stand together and sing with one voice, our hymn, “All the Way My Savior Leads Me”, which is printed in our bulletins.

\*HYMN OF MEDITATION

**“All the Way My Savior Leads Me”**

All the way my Savior leads me, what have I to ask beside?  
Can I doubt His tender mercy, who through life has been my Guide?

Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in Him to dwell!  
For I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well;  
For I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Savior leads me, cheers each winding path I tread,  
Gives me grace for every trial, feeds me with the living Bread.  
Though my weary steps may falter and my soul athirst may be,  
Gushing from the Rock before me, lo! A spring of joy I see;  
Gushing from the Rock before me, lo! A spring of joy I see.

All the way my Savior leads me, oh, the fullness of His love!  
Perfect rest to me is promised in my Father's house above.  
When my spirit, clothed immortal, wings its flight to realms of day  
This my song through endless ages: Jesus led me all the way;  
This my song through endless ages: Jesus led me all the way.

*After the hymn, the Liturgist will step to the lectern and say...*

#### THE INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Obeying his Father's will was costly for Jesus. The way of Christian faithfulness is costly even today. It requires nothing less than the full commitment of our lives. Our offering is a symbol of our life in the Spirit, our total commitment to the reign of God. It is our privilege to demonstrate that commitment as we continue our worship with the presentation of our tithes and offerings...

*The liturgist will sit down until the Doxology begins to play.*

#### THE OFFERTORY

Ms. Sharon Ard

#### \*DOXOLOGY (In Unison)

*The Hymnal #592*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*After the Doxology, the liturgist will return to the lectern and say...*

#### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray... Gracious God, we did not know it would cost so much or feel so good to follow Jesus. We are grateful that we have so much to give and so much yet to learn. We dedicate our offerings so that we and our neighbors may be equipped for life in your realm. Amen.

#### THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"The Apostle's Creed"

Let us remain standing and reaffirm our Christian faith using the traditional words of the Apostles' Creed printed in our bulletins. Let us say what we believe...

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.

*Invite the congregation to... "Be seated," and take a seat.*

*The preacher will step into the pulpit and say, "From time to time, it is good for a church to recognize those who have made a difference in the lives of its members and who have set a good example of discipleship to which the rest of us may aspire. Today is just such a time. So, let me ask Patsy Bentley to come forward for a moment."*

#### A MOMENT FOR DISCIPLESHIP

*The minister shall present and read the Proclamation.*

#### A Proclamation of Celebration and Thanksgiving

**Whereas,** May 29th is the anniversary of Patsy Bentley's birth to a Presbyterian pastor and his wife;  
and

**Whereas,** since joining this congregation, Patsy Bentley has never failed to give less than her best to the glory of God as an elder, deacon, teacher, Sunday School Superintendent, and youth leader; and

**Whereas,** Patsy has been instrumental in organizing, supporting, and continuing such ministries as the handbell choir, the Christmon tree and poinsettias during the Advent and Christmas seasons, and corsages on Mother's Day; and

**Whereas,** Patsy has blessed this community through her work in Magnolia's Adult Education Program, giving those whose lives had been marked by missed opportunities a second chance at success through learning; and

**Whereas,** although she was diagnosed with breast cancer 23 years ago, Patsy has used her own suffering to bless others through the Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Relay for Life, Race for the Cure, and the Susan G. Komen Foundation; and

**Whereas,** Patsy Bentley has become an example of perseverance, faithfulness, and love to her brothers and sisters in Christ, challenging them to surrender their lives ever more completely to the Lordship of Jesus Christ;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Magnolia, Arkansas, by unanimous vote at their Stated Meeting of May 24th, 2016, proclaims Sunday, May 29th, 2016, to be marked as a day of celebration of Patsy's Bentley's life, giving thanks for the many gifts she has given to the glory of God in this place.

**We invite** the members of this church to come together in prayer, giving thanks for Patsy Bentley and for the manifold blessings we have received from God at her hands, and asking God to bless her and those she loves in all of the fullness that is His grace.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** we have hereunto set our hands this twenty-ninth day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.

**Signed,** Rev. Mike Morgan, Pastor; & Dr. Pierre Boumtje, Clerk of Session

*Then he shall ask the congregation to bow their heads in prayer.*

Great and generous God, today we remember with special joy your gift to us in your servant, Patsy Bentley. For the vision of your kingdom granted to her which inspired in us an awareness that we could all do more to your glory and to hasten the realization of your kingdom in our lives; for her unashamed love and pride in her family; for her unselfish devotion to this church and to the church universal; for her heart that always found time for the least of those in your kingdom.

We gratefully acknowledge that it was You who gave her birth, and called her into this little circle of believers. It was You who gave her the passion for what is noble and good. It was you who made her our honored friend and fellow disciple.

So we ask that you watch over her and those she loves most dearly. Grant her your peace unsettled by nothing; your love which never fails and abides with her always; your presence which can turn her darkest days into the purest light and unending joy. Bless her with health and fulfill all her dreams-- for herself, her church, and her family.

Help us all to follow wherever our Savior leads us; and where we cannot see him, allow us all the grace of following those, like Patsy, who can. Through Jesus Christ, our friend, our savior, and our Lord. Amen.

*The minister will return to the pulpit and take a seat.*

*After the Presentation the Liturgist will return to the lectern & say...*

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Our first lesson for this morning is taken from the eighteenth chapter of the First Book of Kings, beginning with the twentieth verse. You are encouraged to follow along and you can find the passage on page #312 in your pew bibles. Listen now for the word of God...

So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel, and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. And Eli'jah came near to all the people, and said, "How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Ba'al, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word.

Then Eli'jah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD; but Ba'al's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Let two bulls be given to us; and let them choose one bull for themselves, and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; and I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood, and put no fire to it. And you call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, he is God." And all the people answered, "It is well spoken."

Then Eli'jah said to the prophets of Ba'al, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it."

And they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Ba'al from morning until noon, saying, "O Ba'al, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped about the altar which they had made.

And at noon Eli'jah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is musing, or he has gone aside, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened."

And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice; no one answered, no one heeded.

Then Eli'jah said to all the people, "Come near to me"; and all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down; Eli'jah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, "Israel shall be your name"; and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, "Fill four jars with water, and pour it on the burnt offering, and on the wood."

And he said, "Do it a second time"; and they did it a second time. And he said, "Do it a third time"; and they did it a third time.

And the water ran round about the altar, and filled the trench also with water.

And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Eli'jah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that thou, O LORD, art God, and that thou hast turned their hearts back."

Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt offering, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God."

*The liturgist will take her seat.*

*The preacher will then return to the pulpit and say...*

Our second reading for this morning is taken from selected verses of the seventh chapter of the Gospel of Luke beginning at the first verse. You can find the passage on page 896 in your pew bibles. Listen once more for the Word of God. . . .

After he had ended all his sayings in the hearing of the people he entered Caper'na-um. Now a centurion had a slave who was dear to him, who was sick and at the point of death. When he heard of Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his slave.

And when they came to Jesus, they besought him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation, and he built us our synagogue."

And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. For I am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."

When Jesus heard this he marveled at him, and turned and said to the multitude that followed him, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith."

And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave well.

Leader: ...This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON

“Under Orders”

The day after Pearl Harbor, my dad went down to join the Navy, but when he got there, the line was too long, so he joined the Marines. Little did he know much how that shortcut would affect him for the rest of his life.

After he had finished training, he and his fellow Marines boarded a ship. They had some idea that this ship would take them to the battle. But they had no idea where. Even his CO didn't know where they were going. All he knew was that when they reached a certain point in the voyage, the CO would open his envelope of orders and discover their destination.

In this case the orders read Guadalcanal.

So, in like manner, all the pioneers of faith have been sent by their Master. Going God knows where, to do only God knows what.

Abraham

Elijah

Columbus

Magellan

The Pilgrims.

We all start out in life, going Who knows where. We will find out when we need to know. But meanwhile, our mission, our route, our destination all remain a mystery.

Elijah was called to carry a word of warning which later became a judgment to King Ahab and his evil Queen Jezebel. Once it was delivered he became a marked man, with the Queen's soldiers actively pursuing him to kill him and silence his surly tongue. And Elijah turned away from his calling and went into hiding, but God did not leave him. He filled him with new strength and courage, and Elijah went on, alone except for the God who went with him, and he did battle with the prophets of the Queen's god, Baal, and utterly destroyed them, reclaiming the people for the Living God.

The Centurion was a man who knew about orders. Likely, he had followed Julius Caesar into battle with the Gauls. He had worked his way up through the ranks and was roughly the equivalent of our Army's Command Sergeant Major. He was solely responsible for the behavior and performance of the 100 to 1000 men under his command. To ignore or defy the order of a centurion was to put your very life at risk.

The Centurion was responsible for maintaining peace and discipline among the civilian population and had the authority to discipline any citizen, even a citizen of the empire if they failed to follow his orders or broke the peace.

But from the beginning of today's gospel lesson, this Centurion is different, while he understands the need for authority, he seems to recognize an authority higher than his own or even the emperor. He has been a friend to the local Jews, giving generously to the local synagogue. Even though, as a Gentile, he would never be allowed to worship inside it with the other men. He would have to stand outside, and hope to hear the prayers and the scriptures as they were read.

He was also different in that he sought help for his servant-- not a member of his family or himself-- but a slave. A man he owned. And to get him the help he needed, he was willing to humble himself before the public, and even his superior officers. He risked the respect of those from whom he needed obedience, to get help for a slave to whom he owed nothing.

His belief becomes faith when he humbles himself and asks for help. His faith becomes immortalized when he affirms that Jesus needs only to give the order, to speak the word. This man Jesus is the highest authority on earth, commanding earth and sea and sky, controlling with no more than a word the powers of death and disease. This is One Who controls the Present and the Future.

And it is this faith that moves Jesus to speak that word of praise for this man's faith, the word that heals his servant.

It is no small thing for someone, especially one of authority, to humble himself publicly and ask for help from a power greater than himself-- especially when that power, that authority is not recognized or accepted by the majority.

So we ask, "How can I know?... How can I be sure? Is there nothing on which I can rely?"

Some people trust to *luck* and accord it a great and determining place in their lives. They cross their fingers, knock on wood, look for four-leaf clovers, and carry rabbits' feet in their pockets. We speak of "pot luck", but the truth is that it is Providence, and every good gift comes from Him. Anyone here want to have a "pot-Providence" supper?

Others speak of "accidents", and make allowance for them, and buy insurance to protect from them. Yet are there really such things as accidents? Was the creation of the world an accident?

On what CAN we rely?! Is there is an assurance that can help us to confidently face all the unknown challenges of all our tomorrows.

It is an assurance given to us in the old Book: "*But I trusted in You, O Lord: I said, You are my God. My times are in Your hand.*" (Psalm 31:14-15).

If you trust in God, if you are willing to give your life to Him, then, and only then, will you have no fear. For no matter where you go, He will be with you. You can never wander from the pathway, for He will lead you.

Dr. W. R. Whitney, chemist and a past president of the American Chemical Society in the middle of the last century, fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, witnessed to his faith with the simplest of all experiments.

He picked up from his desk a small bar magnet. He brought this near a steel needle, and the needle leaped to the magnet, and he said: We have worked out elaborate explanations, speak learnedly of lines of force, draw diagrams of magnetic fields. Yet we know that there are no lines there and "the *field*" is just a word to cover our ignorance. Our explanations are only educated guesses.

"Or consider," Dr. Whitney continued, "*the* beam of light that is speeding from a star, traveling hundreds of years. Finally, it reaches your optic nerve, and you *see* the star. How does that happen? We have our corpuscular theory of light, our wave theory, our quantum theory. But they are all just educated guesses.

"So" explained Dr. Whitney, "after we are all finished with our theories and our guesses, we are still backed up against the fact of God-- the will of God at work in what we call "science".

Thus an eminent scientist looks beyond science (that some still consider the source of all answers) for guidance.

Many of our scientific theories and explanations are only educated guesses. But the will of God alone is final. There are no accidents. God is still the ruler of His universe and of our lives, yours and mine.

So, even though you go out into the world, not knowing where or why, you can go confidently, like Abraham, or Elijah, or the Centurion.... provided you can say with the psalmist: "My times are in Your hand, O Lord."

I long for everyone to know what it is to be guided by the Lord into the very place where He wants you to be . . . to know when you make decisions that you are doing what He wants you to do, and not another lie you tell yourself to justify actions that you know in your heart are wrong. Knowing God's will for one's life is not a privilege reserved for ministers. It is a blessing from God lavished upon clerks and secretaries and teachers and tradesmen, and merchants.

If you want to hear God, you will have to face up squarely to the question, "Am I willing to follow His orders?" "Am I willing to do whatever He tells me to do?"

How hard it is for our proud wills to bow the neck and call Him "Master and Lord"! Yet bow we must, if we are to understand what life is all about, if we are to take even the first step on the road that leads to real peace. We may see ourselves fighting great foes in God's name: Disease, poverty, ignorance, injustice. But the first and greatest enemy from whom we must get an unconditional surrender is ourselves.

And sadly, it is here that many of us are in the grip of a terrible conflict:

We want to hear God speaking to us ... but we are afraid of what we might hear.

We want to be made clean . . . but there is still a hunger for the husks the swine eat.

We would follow Christ . . . but we don't want our friends to think us odd.

We want God's way ... but we also want our own way.

There is an answer to our dilemma . . . Tell Christ honestly about our divided wills. Ask Him to take that over and make it whole. **And He will!**

It may be that His plan for you will not be revealed for some time. You will have to keep close to Him, keep listening for His signals

His plan for you may be a gradual development. There are a thousand ways in which He may use you. You may have to make some changes in your life, break with some of your present companions, change some of your habits . . .

And the enemy may seem too powerful for us, but know that at the right time, He will send His power surging into you, to give you power to defeat temptations, to chase away your fears, to give you a quiet heart, to fill you with joy.

We are living in a hazardous time. It would be tragedy indeed if the still, small voice of God's wisdom and direction is not heard.

When you leave this place this morning, you are leaving port under sealed orders and in a time of war.

You cannot know where you are going or what you are to do. But may take on a Pilot who knows the nature of your sealed orders from the outset, and who will shape your entire voyage accordingly?

He knows the shoals and the sandbanks, the rocks and the reefs. He will steer you safely into that celestial harbor where your anchor will be cast for eternity. Let His mighty nail-pierced hands hold the wheel, and you will be safe.

Now is a splendid time to entrust your life to Him, *now, as you begin*. Give Him your life. He will treasure it-- even more than you.

But say the word, and he will speak. He who commands seas to be still, and demons to be silent, can deliver you safely through the battles and dangers ahead. Then, though you may not know what will be your harbor, you will know your Pilot . . . And all will be well.

#### THE PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Would you pray with me?...

Lord God, forgive the arrogance and foolishness in us that calls you Master, and obeys you not; that calls you the Way and follows you not; that calls you Life and desires you not; that calls you wise and seeks not your counsel; that calls you the giver of all good things and asks of you not; that calls you eternal and seeks you not; that calls you gracious and trusts you not; that calls you Lord, and serves you not; that calls you mighty and honors you not; that calls you just and fears you not. If you

should choose to condemn us, we will blame you not.

Deliver us from the foolishness that leads us to think we can find our own way and chart our own course. Spare us from the arrogance that we can accomplish anything worthwhile based on our own authority. Humble us and bend our wills unto yours, so that we may be spared the painful lessons of those who live without seeking your guidance.

Then grant us ears sharp enough to hear your words spoken to heal and guide us, but let your voice not be so loud that we wander from walking close beside you. Grant us vision enough to see, not our final destination, but only the next step along our journey. Grant us faith enough to love and trust you above all the things of earth, especially ourselves. Grant us courage to walk your way in spite of lingering fears or doubts, without retreating, without surrendering, until we have accomplished that which you intended for us at our birth. Then may we hear those words that all your children long to hear, "Well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Master" spoken by him who leads us and who loves us, the very One Who taught us to pray, who taught us to pray saying....

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.

Let all of us who are able stand and join in one voice to sing our hymn of dedication, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus", hymn #2129 in our *Sing the Faith* hymnal supplements.

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" *Sing the Faith #2129*  
\*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION *(In Unison)*

Because the world is poor and starving, go with bread.

Because the world is filled with fear, go with courage.

Because the world is in despair, go with hope.

Because the world is living lies, go with truth

Because the world is sick with sorrow, go with joy.

Because the world is weary of wars, go with peace.

Because the world is seldom fair, go with justice.

Because the world is under judgment, go with mercy.

Because the world will die without it, go with love.

It is God who will give you courage and strength to do this.

Go with the grace of Jesus Christ, and may all glory go to him.

\*THE CHORAL RESPONSE

"God Be With You"

God be with you 'til we meet again; by His counsels guide, uphold you;

With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'till we meet again.

\*POSTLUDE

Ms. Sharon Ard