

Sow Good News

"Faith comes by listening." (Romans 10:17)



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN

THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE

CELEBRATION OF THE PROGRAM YEAR

Teacher Appreciation Sunday ~ May 12, 2024



C.J. Briggs, Music Director
Julie Lehmann, Church Secretary

Nancy Bair, Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

The first duty of love is to listen.
~ Paul Tillich

~ GATHERING ~

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(from Romans 10:17)*

We listen, we listen for the word of the Lord.

For faith comes by listening.

*GATHERING

LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING
Kenyan (NENO LAKE MUNGU)

GTG #456
Refrain x2

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Isaiah 52)*

For thus says the Lord our God,

my people shall know that it is I who speak:

How beautiful upon the hills are the feet of the messenger:

**who proclaims peace, who spreads good news,
who preaches love, who says: "Your God lives!"**

Listen! The sentries lift their voices:

Together we sing out for joy

Depart! Depart, go out from here,

all those who carry the light of God.

You shall not go out in haste,

for the Holy One will go before those who bring good news.



*HYMN

LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING
Kenyan; trans. Howard S. Olson

GTG #456
NENO LAKE MUNGU

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(based on Matthew 13)*

O God, we have not tended the soil of our lives. We let it stay shallow and rocky by not listening to the experience of others. We let it be riddled with thorns by succumbing to our fears. Life-giving God, help us to tend our soil. Open us to being challenged, enable us to listen, so that your word will take root and bear good fruit in our lives and your world. Amen. *[Silent Confession]*

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM **HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*based on Romans 5*)

God has forgiven us that we might live according to the Spirit.
The Spirit of God dwells within us. Thanks be to God!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** (*Isaiah 52:7*)

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

MINUTE FOR SOWING

OUTREACH

~ LISTENING TO THE WORD ~

CHILDREN OF GOD.

THE CARROT SEED

by Ruth Krauss

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE READING

FAITH COMES BY LISTENING

ROMANS 10:8-17

Page number 150 of the New Testament in your Pew Bibles

RESPONSE

LISTEN TO THE WORD THAT GOD HAS SPOKEN

GTG #455

Anon. Canadian

LISTEN

GOSPEL LESSON

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

MATTHEW 13:1-9

Page number 13 of the New Testament in your Pew Bibles

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.

For faith comes by listening.

SERMON

SOW GOOD NEWS

REV. DAVID WIGGER

~ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ~

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from Confession of Belhar*)

We believe: that **God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;**

We believe: that **the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;**

We believe: that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

CHORAL ANTHEM LET US BUILD A HOUSE TWO OAKS
by Marty Haugen

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

TEACHER APPRECIATION

NANCY BAIR	LEE MCGOVERN
PAT CLARK	SARAH MANSBERY
SUE LENNY	(CE CO-MODERATOR)
RYAN SMITH	JOE STERN
AMY WADSWORTH	(CE CO-MODERATOR)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

~ GOING FORTH TO SOW ~

*HYMN YOU SHALL GO OUT WITH JOY GTG #80
by Steffi Geiser Rubin THE TREES OF THE FIELD

*BENEDICTION

How are they to proclaim unless they are sent:
How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!

POSTLUDE



Go forth to Sow the Good News of God's love and peace.