

## Order of worship 16 August 2020

### Gathering in God's Presence

#### Greeting

*The Bible is full of greetings, and our worship leader greets us in God's name.*

#### From 1 Thessalonians 1:1

To the church in Zurich in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace and peace to you!

#### Psalm of the Day

*We begin our worship with a silent meditation on our Psalm of the Day during the Prelude. Use this time to focus your hearts and minds on God as he speaks to us through his Word.*

#### Psalm 117

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord, all you nations;  
extol him, all you peoples.  
<sup>2</sup> For great is his love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.  
Praise the Lord.

#### Prelude

Prelude from "L'Organiste"  
César Auguste Jean Guillaume Hubert Franck (1822-1890)  
Ruth Pfister, organ

#### \*Call to Worship

*Our Call to Worship draws us into conversation with our God, and is usually taken from our Psalm of the Day. We address one another and enter God's presence together.*

From Psalm 117

Leader: Praise the Lord, all you nations;  
extol him, all you peoples!

**People: We will praise him! For great is his love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**

Leader: Praise the Lord!

**People: Let us worship God!**

#### \*Prayer of Invocation

*Having called one another to God's praise, we turn to God and ask for his presence and power.*

### **From Psalm 117**

Great God and Gracious Father, we have gathered together as women and men and boys and girls from east, west, north, and south, to praise your majesty and to extol your glory! So great is your love toward us—we representatives from so many nations—that we cannot help but sing and shout. So steady and unflinching is your faithfulness that we are drawn together to feast upon your love and fathom your faithfulness together. Let us not fail to give you the praise that is fitting, considering all that you are, and all that you have done, through Jesus Christ, in creation, and in redemption. As we hear from your Word and sing your praise and call upon your name, may your Spirit descend upon us, so that we are changed from deep within, in order that our lives might bear fruit that lasts. We ask it for the sake of our neighbors, for the sake of the nations that are Christ's inheritance and the reward of his suffering, and for the sake of Christ's name. Amen.

### **\*Song of Praise**

*With our Song of Praise, we begin our worship by exalting God for who he is and what he has done.*

### **Hymn 229: "From All That Dwell Below the Skies" (Psalm 117)**

Text: Isaac Watts (para. Psalm 117; 1719)

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN (Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906)

Ruth Pfister, organ

### **Hearing God's Word**

#### **Prayer for Illumination**

*We ask God to make the Scripture fresh, encouraging, and convicting to us as we sit under its ministry.*

### **From Psalm 117**

Gracious God, there is nothing more solid and dependable than your faithfulness. Down through the generations you have revealed yourself in acts and in your Word, and we have come to find your character consistent and reliable. Grow us into more and more trustworthy servants of our Savior Jesus Christ as we sit under the ministry of his Word and experience your very Breath breathed out on the written page. May our encounter with your Word and Spirit result in unflinching praise for your unflinching love among all nations. We ask it in Christ's name. Amen.

### **Old Testament Lesson**

#### **Lamentations 3:19-33**

<sup>19</sup> I remember my affliction and my wandering,  
the bitterness and the gall.

20 I well remember them,  
and my soul is downcast within me.  
21 Yet this I call to mind  
and therefore I have hope:  
22 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,  
for his compassions never fail.  
23 They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
24 I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;  
therefore I will wait for him."  
25 The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him,  
to the one who seeks him;  
26 it is good to wait quietly  
for the salvation of the Lord.  
27 It is good for a man to bear the yoke  
while he is young.  
28 Let him sit alone in silence,  
for the Lord has laid it on him.  
29 Let him bury his face in the dust—  
there may yet be hope.  
30 Let him offer his cheek to one who would strike him,  
and let him be filled with disgrace.  
31 For no one is cast off  
by the Lord forever.  
32 Though he brings grief, he will show compassion,  
so great is his unfailing love.  
33 For he does not willingly bring affliction  
or grief to anyone.

## **Examination**

*We humble ourselves under God's mighty hand and ask the Spirit to search us and lead us by the kindness of Jesus to genuine repentance.*

Psalm 117 is short. It celebrates the international character of the people of God even at a time when the covenant of God had been focused almost exclusively on God's relationship with one particular nation: Israel. Still, there was a great hope and vision that Israel, as God's chosen people, would become such a kingdom of priests, and such a holy nation, that the nations of the world would come to know and worship Israel's God, the one true God, and to thrive under his blessing, through Israel's communal life and witness.

Our church worships and witnesses on the other side of Pentecost, that day when the covenant people of God "went international." We who are Gentiles join those who are Jews to become an international assembly of God's chosen, covenant people, bearing witness in word and deeds, to the rest of the world. Together we sing Psalm 117 and call upon the nations to praise and extol the Lord.

If Israel, the single-nation covenant people of God, was called to hope and long for and to work for a time when all the nations would praise Yahweh, how much more

should we, the international covenant people of God in Christ, hope and long for and work toward the ingathering of the nations, that Jesus, Israel's Messiah and our Lord and Savior, might enjoy full covenant communion with every person his Father has given to him, from every tribe and tongue and nation?

To what extent do our lives—our words and deeds; our witness and welcome—sing “praise the LORD, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples!” If we as a church, and we as individuals, do not delight in the privilege of bearing witness to people of every nation, then perhaps we have not grasped the reason ancient Israel bore witness. Perhaps we have not deeply experienced the greatness of his love for us, or the endurance of his faithfulness toward us. Have we? Does it show in our life and witness as a people?

Let us confess our sins together.

### **Confession of Sin**

Gracious God and Father, thank you for the privilege of bearing witness in word and deed to all the nations. Thank you for counting us worthy of being part of your gift to your dear Son and our triumphant Savior. We confess our lack of astonishment at your grace, and our slowness to embrace the hope of ancient Israel. With these failures, we also fail to call the nations to praise and extol Jesus as we have been commissioned to do. Receive our genuine repentance and in your kindness, forgive our sins and renew our vision, that we might experience your faithfulness and your lovingkindness afresh and be deeply motivated to show and tell the world who you are by what we say and do. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **\*Assurance of Pardon**

People of God, the Psalmist gives us the *reason* that we should praise the Lord among all the nations: “Great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.” The Lord is infinitely more faithful to us than we are to him. Our Heavenly Father loves us with a far greater love than we could ever dream of loving one another. There is nothing quite like the love of our Father toward us. There is nothing so unwavering as the faithfulness of God toward us. Know this: because of his great love, he sent Jesus to save us from our sins and restore us to newness of life. He is faithful and just to forgive us for all our sins as we humbly repent. Rejoice, church: your God, who loves you, is faithful. And his faithfulness is most evident of all in the person of Jesus, our Savior and Lord, in whose name we find forgiveness for sin. Amen!

### **\*Gloria Patri**

Ruth Pfister, organ

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be:  
World without end! Amen! Amen!

**Let the Children Come to Him!**

## Children's Message

### Preaching of the Word

#### Galatians 5:22-23

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

#### Matt 25:14-30

<sup>14</sup> "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,<sup>[a]</sup> each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup> So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup> But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

<sup>19</sup> "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

<sup>21</sup> "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

<sup>22</sup> "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

<sup>23</sup> "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

<sup>24</sup> "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

<sup>26</sup> "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup> Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

<sup>28</sup> "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. <sup>29</sup> For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

#### Meditation

Bach-Busoni Chaconne  
Johanna Ye, piano

## **Sermon**

### **The Spirit's Fruit (Part 7): Faithfulness**

### **Responding to God's Word**

#### **\*Song of Response**

#### **Hymn 276: Great is Thy Faithfulness**

Text: Thomas Obediah Chisholm (1923)

Tune: FAITHFULNESS; William Marion Runyan (1923)

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see:

all I have needed thy hand hath provided—

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

#### **Prayer for Our Tithes and Offerings**

*Please consider taking this time to make a contribution to the ministry of our church through an online bank transfer, PayPal, or Twint. For more, [click here](#).*

#### **Offertory**

Inventions in C Major BWV 772, in C minor BWV 773 and in D Major BWV 774

J.S. Bach

Johanna Ye, piano

#### **\*Doxology**

Ruth Pfister, organ

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise him, all creatures here below  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen!

## **Calling on the Name of the Lord**

### **Prayers of the People**

*We join together in prayer. We praise God; we pray for our world, for the church, for ourselves, and we pray the Lord's Prayer.*

At the end of each petition, the leader will say:

**Lord, in your mercy ...**

And the congregation may respond:

**Hear our prayer.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Now we pray together the prayer our Lord taught us, 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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## **Going with God's Mission and Blessing**

### **Welcome of Guests**

### **Announcements**

### **\*Sending Song**

#### **Hymn 277: O God, Our Faithful God**

Text: Johann Heermann (1630)

Tune: O GOOD, DU FROMMER GOTT, Harm: JS BACH

O God, our faithful God,  
O fountain ever flowing,  
Without whom nothing is,  
All perfect gifts bestowing,  
Grant us a faithful life,  
And give us, Lord, within,  
Commitment free from strife,  
A soul unhurt by sin.

God, grant us strength to do  
With ready heart and willing,  
Whatever You command,

Our calling here fulfilling;  
And do it when we ought,  
With zeal and joyfulness;  
And bless the work we've wrought,  
For You must give success.

If dangers gather round,  
Still keep us calm and fearless;  
Help us to bear the cross  
When life is bleak and cheerless,  
To overcome our foes  
With words and actions kind;  
O God, Your will disclose,  
Your counsel let us find.

### **\*Commissioning and Benediction**

#### **Numbers 6:24-26**

The LORD bless you and keep you.  
The LORD make his face to shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you peace.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen!

#### **Postlude**

Dialogue sur les grands Jeux (Mass for the Congregations)  
François Couperin (1668-1730)  
Ruth Pfister, organ