

*A Celebration of  
200 Years of Presbyterianism  
in the Kanawha Valley  
1819 - 2019*



*Sunday, March 17, 2019, 11 a.m.*

*Welcome to this Joint Worship Service of  
Presbyterian Church (USA) Congregations*

*Charleston, West Virginia*

*Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center Theater*



*A Celebration of 200 Years of Presbyterianism in the Kanawha Valley  
1819-2019*

† Indicates standing, as you are able.

**Outdoor Bagpiping, 10:30 a.m.**

*Beni Kedem Highlanders*

**Piano Voluntaries, 10:45 a.m.**

*Chris Engel, Kanawha United*

*From Celtic Tapestry” by Joseph Martin*

*“Scottish Air”*

*“Brother James’ Air”*

*“Celtic Celebration”*

† **PROCESSION**

*Cross, Beni Kedem Highlanders, Worship Leaders*

† **PROFESSING GOD’S FAITHFULNESS**

*The Rev. Dr. Nancy Kahaian,  
First/Charleston*

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all the generations.

**ALL: You, O Lord, have been a dwelling place for us and our children.**

Leader: Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

**ALL: You, O Lord, have been with us for these 200 years!**

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

**ALL: You, O Lord, have been our refuge and our strength!**

Leader: The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

**ALL: You, O Lord, are the eternal One and we have trusted you.**

Leader: Because of your great love we are not consumed, for your compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

**ALL: You, O Lord, have been our faithful One!**

Leader: Jesus said, “I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

**ALL: You, O Lord, have built your church in this place and we have been blessed.**

† **HYMN OF PRAISE**

# For All the Saints

Sine Nomine

For all the saints who from their labors rest, who  
 Thou wast their rock, their for-tress, and their might;  
 O blest com-mu-nion, fel-low-ship di-vine!  
 And when the strife is fierce, the war-fare long,  
 From earth's wide bounds, from o-ccean's far-thest coast, through

Thee by faith be-fore the world con-fessed Thy  
 Thou, Lord, their cap-tain in the well-fought fight;  
 We fee-bly strug-gle; they in the glor-ry shine; yet  
 steals on the ear the dis-tant tri-umph song, and  
 gates of pearl streams in the count-less host,

name, O Je-sus, be for-ev-er blest.  
 Thou in the dark-ness drear, their one true light.  
 all are in Thee, for all are Thine.  
 hearts are brave a-gain, and arms are strong.  
 sing-ing to Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost:

Al - - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## + PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

*Derek Hudson, Bream*

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sins and the sins of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

## + WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## + SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*(Please share the peace of Christ with those around you.)*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*"Speak, O Lord"*

*Getty & Townsend arr. McDonald*

## SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:11-22

*Abby Ayes, Elk Hills*

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“What We Can Learn”

The Rev. Dr. Ed Thompson  
General Presbyter, Presbytery of West Virginia

+ HYMN

# Be Thou My Vision

Irish Folk Melody

Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart.  
 Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true Word.  
 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;  
 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.  
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways.  
 May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Thou my best thought by day or by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and Thou my high tower,  
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pre - sence, my Light.  
 Raise Thou me heav - en - ward, O Power of my power.  
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.  
 Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## + AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – from A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

*Joe Lothes, Riverlawn (in unison)*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one Triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## OFFERING

*The Rev. Dr. Todd Wright, Village Chapel*

*(Make checks payable to WVMAW)*

## † DOXOLOGY

*Old Hundreth*

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

## † PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(in unison)*

**Gift-giving God, for 200 years we have gathered in this Valley to share what we are and have. Help us continue this sharing of our time, talent, and treasure. May the gifts we give be gifts of Love. May they increase the power of Love in the re-creation of the world. Amen.**

## CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

*The Rev. Dr. Amy Parker, Village Chapel, and The Rev. Patterson Lyles, Kanawha United*

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Leader: Friends, we have all been invited to eat supper in the Lord's house.

**ALL: We come hungry and thirsty.**

Leader: Jesus walked into the world inviting everyone to his feast – the rich and the poor, the faithful and the unfaithful, the strong and the weak, the old and the young, adults and children.

**ALL: We meet at the Lord's Table.**

Leader: Come then and sit down to life with our Lord Jesus Christ, for he will wash the dust from your feet – he will wipe the tears from your eyes – he will take the burden from your shoulders and the heaviness from your hearts.

**ALL: We come to this table to celebrate life, to celebrate faith.**

### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(Responsive)*

Leader: In the beginning, you, Lord, made the world:

*Women: Made it and mothered it,*

Men: Shaped it and fathered it,

*Women: Filled it with seed and with signs of fertility,*

Men: Filled it with life and with song and variety.

Leader: All that is green, blue, deep and growing:

**ALL: Yours is the hand that created it.**

Leader: All that is tender, firm, fragrant and curious,

*Women: All that crawls, flies, swims, walks or is motionless,*

Men: All that speaks, sings, cries, laughs, or keeps silence,

Leader: All that suffers, lacks, limps, or longs for an end:

**All: Yours is the hand that created it.**

Leader: The world belongs to you, O God,  
**All: The earth and all its people.**

Leader: When the time was right, you sent your Son.  
*Women: Sent him and suckled him,*  
Men: Reared him and risked him,  
*Women: Filled him with laughter and tears and compassion,*  
Men: Filled him with anger and love and devotion.

Leader: Unwelcomed child, refugee, and runaway:  
**All: Christ, your own Son.**

Leader: Skilled carpenter and homeless wayfarer,  
*Women: Feeder and teacher, healer and antagonist,*  
Men: Lover of the unlovable, forgiver of the unforgivable:  
**All: Christ, your own Son.**

Leader: Loved by the least, feared by the leaders;  
Befriended by the weak, despised by the strong;  
Deserted by his listeners, denied by his friends;  
Bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh,  
Writing heaven's pardon over earth's mistakes:  
**All: Christ, your own Son.**

Leader: Your Word became flesh,  
**All: He lived among us. He was one of us.**

Leader: When the world could wait no longer,  
*Women: The carpenters took up their tools,*  
Men: They made a cross for your own son,  
*Women: Fashioned from wood and skill of human hands,*  
Men: Fashioned from hate and will of human minds.

Leader: He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief:  
**All: For us he grieved.**

Leader: He was summoned to the judgment hall,  
An enemy of the state, a danger to religion:  
**All: By us he was judged.**

Leader: He was lashed with tongues and scourged with thongs:  
**All: By his stripes we are healed.**

Leader: He was nailed to the cross by human hands:  
**All: Bone of our bone; flesh of our flesh.**

Leader: He died, declaring God's forgiveness.  
He rose on the third day, transforming death.  
He ascended into heaven,  
**All: That he might be everywhere on earth.**

Leader: He sent the Holy Spirit as the seal of his intention.  
He sets before us the bread and the cup,  
**All: And invites us all to his table.**

Leader: Hear us, O Lord, and breathe your Spirit upon us  
And upon this bread and cup.  
May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life,  
Healing, renewing and making us whole.

**All:** **And as the bread and cup which we now eat and drink  
Are changed into us,  
May we be changed again into you,  
Bone of your bone,  
Flesh of your flesh,  
Loving and caring in the world. Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY INTINCTION (*all bread offered is gluten free*)

## PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Leader: In the end as in the beginning, Lord, you are God;

*Women: Loved by us, wanted by us,*

Men: Praised by us, served by us;

*Women: Filling us with the gifts of the Spirit,*

Men: Making us whole for the good of the earth.

Leader: For the bread and the cup, this place and this time,

**ALL: Thanks be to you, Lord God.**

Leader: For the peace that you promised, which the world won't destroy,

**ALL: Thanks be to you, Lord God.**

Leader: For the hope of heaven on earth and the final song of joy,

**ALL: Thanks be to you, Lord God.**

## † HYMN

# Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

I. Watts, W. Croft



Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
Be - neath the shel - ter of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
Be - fore the earth in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived its frame,  
A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone,  
Time, like an ev - er roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;  
Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.  
they fly for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pening day.  
be thou our guard while life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home!

## LITANY OF THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Joyce Armentrout  
and The Rev. Jim Walther, Nitro

*Whenever you hear:* Don't let the light go out.

*Please respond:* **As it has shone for so many years,  
may it shine through our love and our tears.**

### + COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

*The Rev. Dr. Ed Thompson*

Leader: We go to love and serve the world around us,

**ALL: As we have done for 200 years.**

Leader: We go held in the loving arms of God who creates, redeems, supports,  
and sustains us.

**ALL: We are not alone! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### + POSTLUDE

*"Hallelujah Chorus"*

*G.F. Handel*

### + RETIRING PROCESSIONAL

*Beni Kedem Highlanders*



**THE OFFERING TODAY** will go to the West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps (WVMAW), a long-term recovery non-profit organization. They work in partnership with the Presbytery of West Virginia hosting teams of volunteers from all over the United States. Many come from churches, schools, or alternative college spring/fall breaks, bringing hands of hope and help to families who are victims of disaster. Disaster may be flood or storm, or it may be poverty, aging or illness. Volunteers help to make homes warm, safe and dry as they show a little bit of what grace looks like.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO

- ❖ Chris Parsley and Charleston Blueprint, Inc., for providing the bulletins.
- ❖ The Beni Kedem Highlanders for providing special music.
- ❖ Chris Engel and Mary Odin for planning and providing music for today's worship.
- ❖ All who participated in the joint choir, liturgists, greeters, ushers, and other volunteers.
- ❖ Our child-care providers, Ann Grishaber, Emily Hopta, and Tabitha Tolley.
- ❖ Roberta Fowlkes for chairing the planning group, and all who participated: Hersha Brown, Laura Ceperley, Cheryl Eary, Chris Engel, Sharon Gearing, Sharon Heidt, Roy Holstein, Derek Hudson, Susannah Johnson, Dave Long, Patterson Lyles, Mary Odin, Forrest Palmer, Amy Parker, Kari Preslar, Sarah Roach, Cherrie Sizemore, Jim Walther, Todd Wright.
- ❖ Kari Preslar for leading the group that developed the worship liturgies.
- ❖ Derek Hudson for coordinating the ushers, greeters, and communion servers.
- ❖ Buckhannon Presbyterian Church for the loan of the Confessional Banners.
- ❖ Amy and Don Parker for vesting the space.

### RESOURCES

- Call to Worship adapted from the fiftieth anniversary service of the Hillcrest Christian Reformed Church of Hudsonville, MI on May 21, 2006.
- Invitation to the Lord's Table: *Reaching for Rainbows*, by Ann Weems. Westminster John Knox Press, 1980. Pages 143-144.
- Communion Liturgy: *Iona Abbey Worship Book* 34, 2001.
- Litany of Past, Present and Future with response based on *Light One Candle* by Peter Yarrow, adapted [worshipofferings.blogspot.com](http://worshipofferings.blogspot.com).