

Welcome to Worship

August 6, 2023

Prelude *Christ, The Fair Glory* ~ R. Vaughan Williams, arr. Nathan Cleaveland

Gathering Hymn *Earth and All Stars* ~ ELW 731 (vs. 1-2, 4-5)

Prayer of the Day

O God of life, **you have created us and called us to follow your Son. As we face daily challenges in living lives of faithfulness and service, remind us that you are always with us to give us strength and courage. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.**

First Reading Revelation 1:9 - 2:7

I, John, your brother who share with you the persecution and the kingdom and the endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, "write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force.

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying,

"Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last, and the Living One. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades. Now write what you have seen, what is, and what is to take place after this.

"As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: these are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands:

"I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance.

"I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to be false. I also know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

"Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God."

Word of God. Word of life

Thanks be to God

Gospel

John 1:14-18

And the word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only son, who is close to the father's heart, who has made God known.

This is the Good News

Thanks be to God

Hymn of the Day

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd ~ ACS 954

Musical Offering

Don't Let Your Hearts Be Troubled ~ Rick Carlson (Patrick VanDeMotte)

Communion Hymn

The Church's One Foundation ~ ELW 654

Sending Hymn

O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us ~ ELW 431

Postlude

Hymn Tune "Picardy" ~ Nathan Cleaveland

Altar flowers are given in honor of Karol LaValle.