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A FESTIVAL OF HYMNS

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
9:30AM

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A FESTIVAL OF HYMNS

The Writers Tell Their Stories

First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir
Helen Redding, Director
Readers: Bob Redding, Diane Sklensky, Steve Bowers
Joey Moore, trumpet
Terry McRoberts, organ and piano

Hymn Prelude

setting by Hal Hopson

Dr. Terry McRoberts, organ | Joey Moore, trumpet

Opening Prayers

Bob Redding

One: O God, let the Amen sound from your people again.

ALL: *Gladly we praise you forever.*

One: May the words we sing with our lips be the thoughts of our hearts. Through your Holy Spirit renew our own spirits by the songs we sing. Come, O God, and give us fresh insights into our love in Christ Jesus.

ALL: *We sing your praise, O God.*

One: May our songs remind us that you are a God of mercy, and that no sin or misconduct is beyond your forgiveness.

ALL: *We sing your praise, O God.*

One: May our songs remind us that you are a God of beauty and holiness. We give you thanks for poets, composers, singers, and instrumentalists, who join their creativity to bring to life your goodness through word and music.

ALL: *We sing your praise, O God.*

One: May our songs remind us that you are God of all those with special needs. We remember those in whose lives praise is difficult because of injustice, bigotry, poverty, illness, or sorrow.

ALL: *We sing your praise, O God.*

One: May our songs remind us that you are God of all the saints. We remember especially the faithful, who, having made music on earth, now sing your praises in heaven.

ALL: *We sing your praise, O God.*

One: May our songs remind us that you are a God who is worthy of all our praise. Help us to leave this place of worship with a new resolve to honor whatever things are honorable, excellent, and worthy of celebration, whatever things are lovely, and gracious, and of good report.

ALL: *We sing your praise, O God.*

Hear us now, O God, as we gather up our prayers and praise in the words which our Lord himself taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

The Traveling Pilgrim

Diane Sklensky

Bishop Ambrose

Steve Bowers

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Noah Berry, bass

Martin Luther

Steve Bowers

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

(Congregation will stand and sing first stanza Hymn 275)

Isaac Watts

Steve Bowers

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

(Congregation will stand and sing first and third stanzas Hymn 687)

Charles Wesley

Steve Bowers

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Catherine Winkworth

Diane Sklensky

Now Thank We All Our God

(Congregation will stand and sing first stanza Hymn 643)

Robert Lowry

Steve Bowers

Shall We Gather at the River

Annika Jerge, alto

Fanny Crosby

Diane Sklensky

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!

Macey Berry, soprano

John Wesley Work

Steve Bowers

Guide My Feet

Jeff Chambers, tenor

Sydney Carter

Steve Bowers

Lord of the Dance

Noah Berry, bass

The Traveling Pilgrim

Diane Sklensky

OFFERING

Diane Sklensky

OFFERTORY

All Creatures of Our God and King

arr. Althouse

Dr. Terry McRoberts, organ | Joey Moore, trumpet

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDRETH

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.

*Dedicatory Prayer

Diane Sklensky

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*The Confession of 1967 for the Affirmation of Faith*)

Bob Redding

The church responds to the message of reconciliation in praise and prayer. In that response it commits itself afresh to its mission, experiences a deepening faith and obedience, and bears open testimony to the gospel. Adoration of God is acknowledgement of the Creator by the creation. Confession of sin is admission of every person's guilt before God and of their need for God's forgiveness. Thanksgiving is rejoicing in God's goodness to all people and in giving for the needs of others. Petitions and intercessions are addressed to God for the continuation of divine goodness, the healing of human ills, and the deliverance from every form of oppression. The arts, especially music and architecture, contribute to the praise and prayer of a Christian congregation when they help people to look beyond themselves to God and to the world which is the object of God's love.

MINUTE FOR MISSION: OUR BICENTENNIAL

Richard Swaim

BLESSING + BENEDICTION

Bob Redding

POSTLUDE

Postlude on EIN FESTE BURG

arr. Hopson

Dr. Terry McRoberts, organ | Joey Moore, trumpet