

Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>

## **Prelude**

### **Welcome and Announcements**



### **\*Call to Worship**

Leader: We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

**People: Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely.**

Leader: Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

**People: Let us look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.**

### **\*Hymn # 5 – God the Sculptor of the Mountains**

### **Call to Confession**

#### **Prayer of Confession**

**Loving Creator, with a gardener's tender touch, you planted your people to bear good fruit, but we bear wild grapes. With a welder's fierce fire, you fashioned your people to glorify you, but we are riddled with impurities. In your generous mercy, O God, regard the vine you planted: save and restore us. Reform the vessel you crafted: cleanse and refine us. Give us life, O God, that with our whole being, we may worship you rightly. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

### **\*Passing of the Peace**

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

**People: And also with you.**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

#### **Scripture: Psalm 82**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon: A Prayer and Reminder for Our Days**

#### **Affirmation of Faith: The Belhar Confession**

**We believe that God has revealed God's-self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;**

- **that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged**
- **that God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;**
- **that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;**
- **that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;**

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- that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
- that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream;
- that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others. Amen.

### Special Music

### Prayers of the People

#### The Lord's Prayer

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; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

\*Hymn # 339 – Lift Every Voice and Sing

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Congregational Response: Hymn # 606 – Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

### Postlude

# God the Sculptor of the Mountains 5



1 God the sculp - tor of the moun - tains, God the  
 2 God the nui - sance of the Pha - raoh, God the  
 3 God the dress - er of the vine - yard, God the  
 4 God the un - ex - pect - ed in - fant, God the



mill - er of the sand, God the jewel - er of the  
 cleav - er of the sea, God the pil - lar in the  
 plant - er of the wheat, God the reap - er of the  
 calm, de - ter - mined youth, God the ta - ble - turn - ing



heav - ens, God the pot - ter of the land:  
 dark - ness, God the bea - con of the free:  
 har - vest, God the source of all we eat:  
 proph - et, God the res - ur - rect - ed truth:



you are womb of all cre - a - tion;  
 you are fount of all de - liv - erance;  
 you are host at ev - ery ta - ble;  
 you are pres - ent ev - ery mo - ment;



we are form - less; shape us now.  
 we are aim - less; lead us now.  
 we are hun - gry; feed us now.  
 we are search - ing; meet us now.

Despite the great sweep of these stanzas, each one ends by describing how our human condition needs God's help: formless, aimless, hungry, searching. Each of these adjectives is followed by a related three-syllable petition: shape us now, lead us now, feed us now, meet us now.

THE LIFE OF THE NATIONS

# 339 Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en  
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening  
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -  
rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had  
tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening  
died. Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry  
way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the

skies; let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
feet come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?  
light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, this text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought  
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -  
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us. Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -  
tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at  
thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.  
last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.