

Charles Town Presbyterian Church

Sunday, July 26, 2020

10:30am

Welcome and Invocation

Song *"Gather Us In"* (see attachment)

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits inflame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we receive new life in the waters; here we receive the bread of new birth;
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years away,
Here in this place the new light is shining; now is God present, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

(Words and Music: © 1982 GIA Publications)

Prayer of Confession Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God, your kingdom confounds us. You challenge our assumptions about right living and stretch our understanding of what holds worth. You reverse our expectations and reorder our priorities until they reflect your vision of well-being for all. Your kingdom surprises us with grace upon grace. But we cling to the values of this world, which privilege products over people, success over service, and competition for resources over the common good. Open us to new ways of living that embody your desire for creation and contribute to a commonwealth marked by justice and joy. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon...

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel,
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer and prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Scripture

Matthew 5:13-16

Message

"Salt and Light"

Pastor John

"As a Fire Is Meant for Burning" (see attachment)

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,
So the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,
We join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions, we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening spirit, we would live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the spring time is a sign of life renewed,
So may we be signs of oneness 'mid earths peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,
May our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

(Words © 1992 GIA Publications)

Benediction

Brothers and sisters, as the Church of Jesus Christ, go from this place...

**Knowing Christ, growing in God's love, and serving as
the Holy Spirit leads.**

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