



Noadiah by David Hunter

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 23, 2020

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** Please rise in body or spirit.*

PRELUDE

Kingsfold

Charles Callahan

Silent prayer (based on a prayer of Patrick of Ireland, c. 389-461)

*Lord, be with me this day – within me to purify me;
above me to draw me up; beneath me to sustain me;
before me to lead me; behind me to restrain me;
around me to protect me. In Jesus I pray. Amen.*

— GATHERING —

CALL TO WORSHIP ~ based on Psalm 5

Pastor: In the morning, God hears our voices as we lift our prayers and songs.

People: *In the morning, God whispers to us in the gentle breezes stirring the world.*

Pastor: In the morning, we look for God alive and active around us.

People: *In the morning, we find God working with us in the garden, sitting next to us at our desks, walking with us in the village. We find God alive and active in our minds and in our hearts.*

Pastor: This morning, we come together to worship the Lord our God.

People: *This morning – and every morning – the Lord gathers us up to lead us with faithful love through our day. Praise be to God!*

* HYMN

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

Njoo Kwetu, Roho Mwema

1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing;
2 Come to teach us; come to nour - ish
3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing
4 Not mere knowl - edge, but dis - cern - ment,
5 Keep us fer - vent in our wit - ness,

fash - ion us all a - new. It's your lead - ing
those who be - lieve in Christ. Bless the faith - ful;
done in your ho - ly name. Mo - ti - vate all
nor root - less lib - er - ty; turn dis - qui - et
un - swayed by earth's al - lure. Ev - er grant us

that we're need - ing; help us to fol - low you.
 may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
 in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.
 to con - tent - ment, doubt in - to cer - tain - ty.
 zeal - ous fit - ness, which you a - lone as - sure.

Refrain
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 Njo - o, njo - o, nj - oo, Ro - ho mwe - ma.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

People: *Eternal God, just as you called your prophets so long ago, so you call each one of us to speak and to act in your name in our world today. Jesus taught us and showed us how. Forgive us when we are hesitant to follow him in your way: forgive us when we are afraid to speak up for what is right. Forgive us when we make excuses, saying we don't have enough time or don't know the proper words. Forgive us when are content to stay stuck in place instead of taking a trust-filled risk.*

(Moment of silence for personal confession)

Pastor: God of powerful love,

People: *Give us courage to step out in faith and to follow where your Spirit leads without hesitation or fear, sure that your presence goes with us and confident that you will provide all that we need. We pray through Christ our Lord; Amen.*

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: Hear the good news... ...In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Let all the people say:

People: *Thanks be to God!*

* Response

Our God is an Awesome God

Awesome God

Our God is an awe-some God who reigns from heav-en a-bove
 with wis - dom, power, and love; our God is an awe-some God!

* THE PEACE

Pastor: Since we have been forgiven in Christ,... ...The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: *And also with you.*

(At your place, you are invited to share with one another signs of God's peace, welcome, and forgiveness.)

— THE WORD —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FROM THE GREEK SCRIPTURES ~ 1 John 4:1-3a

FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES ~ Nehemiah 6:1-16

SERMON

Decisions, Decisions

The Rev. Dr. Nancy E. Lowmaster

— GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND TO THE WORD —

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ~ adapted from *Living Faith* (creed of the Presbyterian Church in Canada)

*Faith is a gift of God constantly renewed in Word and Sacrament
and in the shared life of God's people.*

Faith is trust in God and in God's good news in Christ.

*By faith we receive the very life of God into our lives
and joyfully discover that God knows, loves, and pardons us.*

*Faith is also a response to God's presence in the midst of life,
involves personal repentance of sin, acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior,
and commitment to him as Lord.*

Faith says "yes" to the God who first said "yes" to us.

God brings us to faith in many ways.

We may have trusted in God from childhood, or our faith may have come later in life.

Faith may come suddenly or only after a struggle to believe.

*Whatever the journey we have traveled, it is the Spirit who has called us
and who continues to lead us as we grow in faith and faithfulness to our Lord Jesus Christ.*

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.*

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Offertory

God of the Bible

Tony E. Alonso

*God of the Bible, God in the Gospel, hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
you are our center, daylight or darkness, freedom or prison, you are our home.*

Refrain: Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, you do not change.

*God in our struggles, God in our hunger, suffering with us, taking our part,
still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit, feeding, sustaining, from your own heart. Refrain*

*Those without status, those who are nothing, you have made royal, gifted with rights,
chosen as partners, midwives of justice, birthing new systems, lighting new lights. Refrain*

*Not by your finger, not by your anger will our world order change in a day,
but by your people, fearless and faithful, small paper lanterns, lighting the way. Refrain*

*Hope we must carry, shining and certain through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
bonding us gladly one to the other till our world changes facing the Cross. Refrain*

Prayer of Dedication

— SENDING —

* HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

Slane



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
4 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 pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heaven - 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.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Church's One Foundation

Lani Smith

Silent Prayer: As the postlude is played, you are invited silently to reflect on God's word to you and to pray, perhaps using the words of this prayer based on I Kings 3:9, Solomon's request to God for wisdom:

*Lord of all, of individuals and of nations,
fill me with such understanding and knowledge that I may act as an instrument
of your loving desire for creation,*

*Working in me to transform my conceit into concern for others,
my fear into love, my ruthlessness into peace, my brokenness into wholeness.*

For Christ's sake; Amen

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Pastor Rev. Dr. Nancy E. Lowmaster
Director of Music A. David Hurd

About the cover image:

David Hunter is a contemporary American artist and zoologist who currently lives in Florida.

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Worshiping with thanks + + + Serving with love