**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 30, 2020, 10:00 AM**

 **Watchword of the Week:**

***Jesus said, “If any want to become my followers,***

***let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”***

**Matthew 16:24**

**Prelude** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* Arr. Page

**Welcome and Announcements** Marshall Mathers

**Call to Worship** Linda Mathers

Leader: When Jesus joined them, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

**Men: Some say John the Baptist;**

**Women: Others say Elijah;**

**Choir: Some say Jeremiah or one of the prophets.**

Leader: “But what about you?” Jesus asked. Who do you say I am?”

**All: “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”**

Leader: Let us worship our risen, living Savior!

**Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer** Mr. Mathers

**Liturgy for Christmas, p. 59** Bill Shields

 TUNE: ANTIOCH

 Joy to the world! the Lord is come;

 let earth receive her King;

 let every heart prepare him room,

 and heav'n and nature sing,

 and heav'n and nature sing,

 and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns;

 let all their songs employ;

 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

 repeat the sounding joy,

 repeat the sounding joy,

 repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

**For he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.**

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high has broken upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

**To guide our feet into the way of peace.**

For unto us a Child is born,

**Unto us a Son is given.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**Thanks be to God for this gift beyond words!**

My eyes have seen your salvation,

**Which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.**

 TUNE: IN DULCI JUBILO

 Dear Christian friends, rejoice,

 with heart, and soul, and voice;

 hear the news that John did cry:

 "God to us is drawing nigh;

 turn away from fear and sin,

 to let the Savior enter in."

 God is drawing nigh!

 God is drawing nigh!

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Saving God, we confess to you our sinfulness. We are consumed with greed and with self, instead of loving you as we ought. Too often we are indifferent to those for whom this season is not a time of joy. You call us to the simple life, but we engage in extravagance, which directs our hearts away from you and from those in need.

**Forgive us, and renew us, gracious Savior. Amen.**

With Mary we exalt you, God our Redeemer:

 **My soul magnifies the Lord,**

 **and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

 **for he has looked with favor on**

 **the lowliness of his servant.**

 **Surely, from now on all**

 **generations will call me blessed;**

 **for the Mighty One has done great things for me,**

 **and holy is his name.**

 **His mercy is for those who fear him**

 **from generation to generation.**

 **He has shown strength with his arm;**

 **he has scattered the proud in the**

 **thoughts of their hearts.**

 **He has brought down the powerful**

 **from their thrones,**

 **and lifted up the lowly;**

 **he has filled the hungry with good things,**

 **and sent the rich away empty.**

 **He has helped his servant Israel,**

 **in remembrance of his mercy,**

 **according to the promise he made**

 **to our ancestors,**

 **to Abraham and his descendants forever.**

 TUNE: ADESTE FIDELES (39 F)

 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

 Come and behold him, born the King of angels!

 O come, let us adore him,

 O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

 Christ the Lord!

 O sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!

 O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!

 Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

 O come, let us adore him,

 O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

 Christ the Lord!

Glory be to you, Lord our God; you have chosen us in Jesus Christ, our Lord, before the founding of the world.

**You have given us such love, Father, that we should be called the children of God!**

You have blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

**You have rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of your beloved Son.**

You have redeemed us through Jesus Christ, your Incarnate Son.

**For the sake of the great love with which you love us, make us alive in Christ, our Lord.**

Holy Child of Mary, Savior of the world,

**Reveal yourself to us.**

By your holy incarnation,

By your human birth,

By your pure and blameless childhood,

By your obedience and diligence,

By your humility, meekness, and patience,

By your extreme poverty,

By your griefs and sorrows,

By your prayers and tears,

By your having been despised and rejected,

By your cross and suffering,

By your death and burial,

By your triumphant resurrection and ascension,

**Help us and save us.**

For the poor, the abused, and the sick,

For prisoners and the homeless,

For victims of natural disaster and war,

For those who are in danger, misery, or distress,

For those who minister to human need in your name,

For all who share your good news,

For your whole church on earth,

**We pray for your blessing, strength, and encouragement.**

God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**May we all be transformed into the image of Christ from one degree of glory to another.**

 TUNE: CHRIST THE LORD

 Christ the Lord, the Lord most glorious,

 now is born; O shout aloud!

 We by him are made victorious;

 praise the Savior, hail our God!

 Praise the Lord, God, our salvation,

 praise him who retrieved our loss;

 sing, with awe and love's sensation,

 hallelujah! God with us!

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**Solo** *You Are the Christ*Martin

Lewis Phillips, soloist

**Reading of God’s Word** Mr. Shields

 Isaiah 51:1-6

Romans:12:1-8

**Sermon What Is Your Answer?** Dick Joyce

Matthew 16:13-20

**Hymn 743** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* FRIENDSHIP

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
ev'rything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge,
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

**Benediction** Mr. Joyce

**Postlude** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Arr. Innes

*The work of the church could not go on without your consistent, generous gifts through tithes and offerings. One of the greatest indications of our love for the Lord and His church is both our desire to give, as well as the action of giving. There is a box in the vestibule for you to place your tithes and offerings.*

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