

# 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2014 ♦ 11:00 a.m. Worship

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## Welcome

### \*Passing of the Peace

#### Prelude

*My Heart Ever Faithful*  
*Natalie Dyke, soprano*

*J. S. Bach*

## Introit

### \*Call to Worship

Leader: Ripples of praise flowing to the four corners of the earth,

**People: Echoes of blessings ringing through canyons,**

Leader: O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

**People: Bushels of love ripening in every home,**

Leader: Handfuls of honor pouring from every life,

**People: O God, our God, how glorious is your creation! How wondrous is your name, spoken by little ones, shouted by wise ones, sung by humble ones!**

### \*Opening Hymn #87

*What Gift Can We Bring*

### \*Affirmation of Faith #881

The Apostles' Creed

### \*Gloria Patri #70

### \*Centering Prayer

Dear God in Christ, we are your richly planted, ripening people in various stages of faith. We pray that in this hour you will water our souls. Brighten our minds, lengthen our roots, stretch our stems, and touch our hearts, that we might be strengthened with a generosity to sow your seeds as needed.

## Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer #895

#### Anthem

*God So Loved the World*  
*Sanctuary Choir*

*John Stainer*

## Children's Message

### \*Hymn of Preparation #2036 (insert)

*Give Thanks*

#### Sermon

*"Declaration of Your Heart"*  
*John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 8 (selected)*

*Rev. Bates*

### Our Response to God's Extravagant Generosity

*~you will receive a Serving from the Heart Card and an Estimate of Giving Card. please prayerfully complete both cards. place it in the envelope provided. and bring to the altar as your offering to God~*

### Prayer of Dedication (insert)

### Offering & Offertory

### \*Doxology #94

### \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We give our gifts in love and thanksgiving for all that we have been given. Let our giving gracious God be not the end point but rather the beginning. Let our gifts of love and gratitude travel where we do not, making pathways of hope where there is none. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### \*Closing Hymn #438

*Forth in Thy Name*

### \*Benediction

### \*Postlude

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*\*For those who are able, please stand*

## Prayer of Dedication

Leader: Blessed are the poor.

**People: Almighty One, let these gifts and pledges of ours remind us of your concern for the poor and of our responsibility to shoulder some of their burden.**

Leader: Blessed are those who mourn.

**People: Help us, O God, to use these pledges and gifts for the proclamation of the amazing news that death does not have the last word.**

Leader: Blessed are the humble.

**People: Gracious One, teach us to be humble as these gifts and pledges are indeed humble in the light of your wondrous grace.**

Leader: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice.

**People: Let these pledges and gifts of ours, O God, assist many, both near and far, in their struggle for justice.**

Leader: Blessed are the merciful.

**People: Show us, Merciful One, the depth of your mercy in this very act of giving -- by reminding us of the gift of your beloved Son, the Lord of Mercy.**

Leader: Blessed are the pure in heart.

**People: Let this offering of our hands, O God, purify our hearts of selfishness.**

Leader: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

**People: Father, empower these gifts and pledges of ours to reach out, in redemptive love, to the persecuted, the oppressed, the neglected, the forgotten.**

Leader: Blessed are you when people shall revile you... on my account....

**People: Accept, Sovereign Lord, our pledges and our gifts, and teach us to love the world you love, neither fearing hostility nor expecting any reward. For the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus. Amen.**