



# First Presbyterian Church of Naples

Service of Worship

Sunday, July 11, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Our Mission:

**Serving Christ In Our Community and the World**

A Time for Meditation and Prayer

The Prelude

**Choral Song**

SAMUEL SEBASTIAN WESLEY

Welcome and Greeting Together

\*Call to Worship

PSALM 44:1-2

Leader: Your goodness, Lord, and wondrous deeds across the years are told.

All: *To generations yet unborn by faithful heart of old by your own hand the nations fell,*

Leader: New lands did come to be; through your own might were foes subdued,

All: *And by Your Word set free. Let us worship God!*

\*Hymn of Praise

**Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!**

DARWALL

1. *Come sing, O church, in Joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!*
2. *Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,  
Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!*
3. *Let courage be our friend, let wisdom be our guide,  
As we in mission magnify the Crucified!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!*
4. *Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church in song!  
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!*

Prayer of Adoration

Prayers of Confession

All: *God our Founder: Your Spirit led our ancestors to seek this land, and out of conflict and rebellion you created in us a love of peace and liberty. But we still are not at peace. You have called us, and chosen us to be your witnesses wherever we are. Forgive us when we are silent. Forgive our lack of compassion and slack faith as often times we go our own way, forgetting who we are and whose we are. Help us to be good stewards of your love and of our world; in Jesus's name we pray. Amen.*

\* *Let all who are able, please stand.*

## A Moment for Silent Personal Confession

### Confession Response:

#### **What a Friend We Have in Jesus** (vs. 3)

CONVERSE

*All: 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 thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.*

### Words of Assurance

Leader: Friends, hear the good news of the gospel. Whatever our shortcoming, whatever our sins, God promises to forgive those who honestly seek Him. For at just the right time, when we were powerless, Christ died for us.

*All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!*

### \*Gloria Patri #805

GREATOREX

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen!*

### Children's Time

TRICIA RICHARDS

### First Reading

Ezekiel 2:1-7

PEW BIBLE PAGE 673

<sup>1</sup>He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. <sup>2</sup>And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. <sup>4</sup>The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' <sup>5</sup>Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them. <sup>6</sup>And you, O mortal, do not be afraid of them, and do not be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns surround you and you live among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words, and do not be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. <sup>7</sup>You shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear; for they are a rebellious house.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

*All: Thanks be to God.*

### Response

#### **Bright and Beautiful**

ARR. MARK HAYES

Suzanne Keen, *mezzo-soprano*

### 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.*

### Presentation of Tithes and Offerings (Please pass the friendship pads.)

### The Offertory

#### **Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing**

GORDON YOUNG

*Now let us all praise God and sing Our great Redeemer's praise; That we may all with one accord  
Our joyful voices raise. Sing Alleluia! All ye servants of the Lord, Praise Him forever, Sing Jeho-  
vah's mighty power, Praise him forever. Sing of His righteousness, Praise Him forever.*

\* *Let all who are able, please stand.*

\*The Doxology

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

\*Prayer of Dedication

*All: Loving God, may these gifts help us to love all people and give food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, loving care to the sick, hospitality to the stranger and support to our mission here and in the world. Amen.*

Second Reading

Mark 6:1-6

PEW BIBLE PAGE 817

<sup>1</sup>He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup>On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! <sup>3</sup>Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' <sup>5</sup>And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. <sup>6</sup>And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

***Rebels for Christ***

\*Hymn of Commitment

***Called As Partner's in Christ's Service***

BEECHER

- 1. Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace  
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.*
- 2. Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.  
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,  
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.*
- 3. Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,  
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,  
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.*
- 4. So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life  
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.*

\*Commission

\*Benediction

Postlude

***Allegro Maestoso (Water Music Suite)***

G.F. HANDEL

\* *Let all who are able, please stand.*

Preaching:

Rev. Margaret Towner

Assisting:

Gloria Kersch, Tricia Richards

Organist: on the Julia Thompson Smith Memorial Organ

Dr. Brice Gerlach

Ushers: Phyllis Kruger (Head Usher), Lloyd & Susan Doerflinger, Dorothy Douglas, Richard Filley,

Gerri Harvatt, Sandy Johnson, Robert Knudson, JoAnn Luster, Bob Martin,

Greeters: D.D. Desmond, Nick & Sara Linn, Carl & Kaye Ulberg

Stephen Minister (Spencer Hall): Barbara Gibson

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### **The Rev. Margaret Towner**

Rev. Towner, the first female ordained in the Presbyterian church in the United States of America, has spent the past 54 years forging ahead as a quiet pioneer.

Towner, was raised in the Presbyterian church and was active in her congregation, but ordination was not a goal to which she aspired. When she was ordained in 1956, it was months before she even realized the historical implications of that act. A couple of years earlier, she had graduated from Union Seminary in New York and was serving as a Christian educator in Tacoma Park, MD. Women could work in a church in the early 1950s, but they could not be ordained to the ministry. Members of her home presbytery in Syracuse, NY, encouraged her to seek ordination. So she completed her exams, and her ordination service was planned. Towner readily admits she was naive about "what I was getting into."

When the Office of the General Assembly confirmed that she was indeed the first female ordained to the ministry, in the then PCUSA, the media had other ideas. Her photo was featured in *Life* magazine and other publications. Following her historic ordination, she served congregations in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin. During her 17 years in Milwaukee, she began the shift from Christian education to pastoral ministry. As one of three co-pastors in a six-church parish, her administrative gifts began to flourish. Towner said that while she has dealt with her share of jealousy, insults and obstacles over the years, "the good has far outweighed the bad."

*Donations to the Sanctuary Flower Fund have been made by*

*Lorna Caine in loving memory and to celebrate the life of  
Wendell Ward Upton*

*and*

*Nancy Johnson in loving memory of Dorothy Vanden Heuvel*

*Sympathies of the church are extended to the family and friends of  
John Pfouts who died July 4. A service of remembrance was held at the church on Thursday, July 8.*

**First Presbyterian Church of Naples**

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