



UNION CHURCH OF POCANTICO HILLS

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

VIRTUAL WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.



Flowers for teachers who were already feeling a bit undervalued

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*Words spoken or sung by the congregation are noted in **bold** type.*

PRELUDE FOR ORGAN

Organ Sonata IV: Andante Religioso

Richard Coffey, *Organist*
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God is majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendor,
and worthy of our highest praise.

Who is like the Lord?

Our God blew back the waters,
prepared a path through the sea,
and appeared as a pillar of fire
to light the pilgrim way.

Who is like the Lord?

The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

**Let us sing to the Lord who triumphs
gloriously!**

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

LYONS 10.10.11.11

Robert Grant, 1833; alt.

Attr. Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806); alt.

1. O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove!
 2. O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
 3. The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
 4. Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?

O grate - ful - ly sing God's power and God's love;
 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space.
 Al - might - y, Thy power hath found - ed of old;
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;

Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days, Pa -
 The char - iots of heaven the deep thun - der - clouds form, And
 Hath stab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree, And
 It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain, And

vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
 bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.
 round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.

5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
 In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
 Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
 Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The proof of God's amazing love is this:
While we were sinners
Christ died for us.
Because we have faith in him,
we dare to approach God with confidence.
In faith and penitence,
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we are quick to ask for grace
when we have fallen short,
for patience when we have stubbornly
turned away from you.
Why are we slow
to show the same mercy to others?
We keep track of wrongs
and cling to old hurts,
rather than offering the forgiveness
that could free others and ourselves.
We strive to be more faithful, Lord;
we want to be more loving.
So, we kneel before you once again
to ask for patience and grace.
Transform us, we pray.
Pour out your mercy upon us,
until it flows forth from us
through acts of love.**

PRAYERS OF SILENT AND INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The mercy of the Lord
is from everlasting to everlasting.
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven.
May the God of mercy,
who forgives you all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep you in eternal life. Amen.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“Laud and Honor to the Father”

Regent Square

**Laud and honor to the Father,
Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit,
Ever three and ever one;
One in might and one in glory
While unending ages run.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

In the quiet of this holy hour,
speak to us of eternal things:
of love and of truth,
of faithfulness and trust,
of forgiveness and of grace.
Thus may we find ourselves,
and know ourselves,
and renew ourselves in you. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 123:1-4

- ¹To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
²As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, until he has mercy upon us.
³Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.
⁴Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

ARIA FROM *ELIJAH*

Words from I Kings 18

“Lord God of Abraham”

Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Jonathan Mildner, baritone

*Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel,
this day let it be known that Thou art God, and I am thy servant!
Oh, show to all this people that I have done these things
according to Thy word.
Oh, hear me, Lord, and answer me,
and show this people that Thou art Lord God.
And let their hearts again be turned.*

It happened at that time that Judah went down from his brothers and settled near a certain Adullamite whose name was Hirah. ²There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua; he married her and went in to her. ³She conceived and bore a son; and he named him Er. ⁴Again she conceived and bore a son whom she named Onan. ⁵Yet again she bore a son, and she named him Shelah. She was in Chezib when she bore him. ⁶Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn; her name was Tamar. ⁷But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD put him to death. ⁸Then Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her; raise up offspring for your brother." ⁹But since Onan knew that the offspring would not be his, he spilled his semen on the ground whenever he went in to his brother's wife, so that he would not give offspring to his brother. ¹⁰What he did was displeasing in the sight of the LORD, and he put him to death also. ¹¹Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, "Remain a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up"—for he feared that he too would die, like his brothers. So Tamar went to live in her father's house.

¹²In course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died; when Judah's time of mourning was over, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. ¹³When Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep," ¹⁴she put off her widow's garments, put on a veil, wrapped herself up, and sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. She saw that Shelah was grown up, yet she had not been given to him in marriage. ¹⁵When Judah saw her, he thought her to be a prostitute, for she had covered her face. ¹⁶He went over to her at the road side, and said, "Come, let me come in to you," for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?" ¹⁷He answered, "I will send you a kid from the flock." And she said, "Only if you give me a pledge, until you send it." ¹⁸He said, "What pledge shall I give you?" She replied, "Your signet and your cord, and the staff that is in your hand." So he gave them to her, and went in to her, and she conceived by him. ¹⁹Then she got up and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood. ²⁰When Judah sent the kid by his friend the Adullamite, to recover the pledge from the woman, he could not find her. ²¹He asked the townspeople, "Where is the temple prostitute who was at Enaim by the wayside?" But they said, "No prostitute has been here." ²²So he returned to Judah, and said, "I have not found her; moreover the townspeople said, 'No prostitute has been here.'" ²³Judah replied, "Let her keep the things as her own, otherwise we will be laughed at; you see, I sent this kid, and you could not find her."

²⁴About three months later Judah was told, "Your daughter-in-law Tamar has played the whore; moreover she is pregnant as a result of whoredom." And Judah said, "Bring her out, and let her be burned." ²⁵As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, "It was the owner of these who made me pregnant." And she said, "Take note, please, whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff." ²⁶Then Judah acknowledged them and said, "She is more in the right than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah." And he did not lie with her again. ²⁷When the time of her delivery came, there were twins in her womb. ²⁸While she was in labor, one put out a hand; and the midwife took and bound on his hand a crimson thread, saying, "This one came out first." ²⁹But just then he drew back his hand, and out came his brother; and she said, "What a breach you have made for yourself!" Therefore he was named Perez. ³⁰Afterward his brother came out with the crimson thread on his hand; and he was named Zerah.

HYMN

More Love to Thee, O Christ

MORE LOVE TO THEE 6.4.6.4.6.6.4.4

Elizabeth Payson Prentiss, 1856

William Howard Doane, 1870

1. More love to Thee, O Christ, More love to Thee! Hear Thou the
 2. Once earth-ly joy I craved, Sought peace and rest; Now Thee a -
 3. Then shall my lat - est breath Whis - per Thy praise; This be the

prayer I make On bend - ed knee. This is my ear - nest plea:
 lone I seek, Give what is best. This all my prayer shall be:
 part - ing cry My heart shall raise. This still its prayer shall be:

More love, O Christ, to Thee, More love to Thee, More love to Thee!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray to the Lord, saying,
Loving God, **hear our prayer.**

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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,
to present yourselves as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God.
Let us offer our gifts and our lives to the Lord.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty God,
receive these gifts that we offer with grateful hearts
and use our lives for the ministry of your Son, Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

HYMN

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

Brian Dill, 1988

DARWALL'S 148TH 6.6.6.8.8

John Darwall, 1770

1. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
2. Long years have come and gone, And still God reigns su - preme,
3. Let cour - age be our friend, Let wis - dom be our guide,
4. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!
Em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!
As we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the a - ges long!

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE FOR ORGAN
Cornet Voluntary

John Travers (1703-1758)



NOTES ON THE OFFERING

*Everyone has something to offer. Just your joining with us today is an offering of yourself to our communal worship. If this is your first time with us, we want to hear from you. Please let us know your name and how best to contact you after today's service. You can do this in the Zoom chat room, by commenting on the Facebook Live Stream or by emailing Dr. DeGarmo directly at ldegarmo@comcast.net. He or one of our deacons would love to be in touch with you in the coming days. Anyone is able to offer **prayers**. You can offer prayer requests in the chat room or on the Facebook Live Stream. Finally, you can offer your **monetary gifts** to support the mission and ministry of our congregation. To give online, you can visit the [giving page on our website](#) to make a one time or recurring gift. If you prefer to give by check, you can send it to 555 Bedford Road, Tarrytown, NY 10591. We thank you for joining us today and offering your voice, prayers and presence to our gathering.*

SONG LEADERS

The congregation will be led in singing today by Adam Goldstein, Jonathan Mildner and Ruth Tedder DiLorenzo.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, September 15

8:30 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom – contact [Dr. DeGarmo](#) for the link

Wednesday, September 16

7:00 p.m. Virtual Bible Study via Zoom – contact [Dr. DeGarmo](#) for the link

Sunday, September 20

10:00 a.m. Virtual Worship– contact [Dr. DeGarmo](#) for the links