



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

JULY 26, 2020

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing J. Wyeth, arr. F. Bock

CALL TO WORSHIP

So much in life is unpredictable.

Life begins and ends. The weather changes. Love surprises us. Doors close. Others open.

Life is unpredictable, but God is faithful;

So we bring our questions and concerns, our doubts and wonderings,

For in the midst of this unpredictable life, we can predict this:

God is here and God loves us.

HYMN

God is Here

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,

May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us, All our varied skills and arts.

Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, In an age of change and doubt,

Keep us faithful to the gospel, Help us work Your purpose out.

Here, in this day's dedication, All we have to give, receive:

We, who cannot live without You, We adore You! We believe!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Wondrous God, we confess that at times our doubts and fears unravel our hope and faith.

Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of your love and instead fall into despair and gloom.

Lift our spirits and help us to remember the promise of new life you weave into our lives.

Forgive us, restore us and renew us. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray.

(Time of Personal Prayer and Reflection)

SOLO

The Good Shepherd

G. Clifton Bingham

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-29

SERMON

"Unraveled Doubt"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Great Weaver— Who stiches us together in community,
Collecting our loose ends and turning them into belonging.

I believe in the Holy Spirit— Who hems us in before and behind,
Catching us when we fall and writing us into God’s holy narrative.

And I believe in Jesus Christ— Who loved and claimed the people society had thrown out,
refusing to disregard anyone as scrap.

I believe God has woven part of God’s self into the fiber of our being,
Making us inherently worthy of love and belonging.

I believe in the Church, and that like a quilt of different fabrics,
is designed to be as diverse and beautiful as God’s creation.

And I believe that when life unravels, God is there to stitch my wounds together,
And to invite me into a new journey. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

HYMN *Why Must Doubt Be Such a Bad Thing* Stephen M. Fearing

*Why must doubt be such a bad thing? Why must Thomas be so shamed?
Through his trauma he was kept from seeing what his friends had claimed.
He was in the depths of grieving, stuck in his own deathly tomb,
In his sorrow, Thomas left them; soon his hidden hope would bloom.*

*Why must doubt be such a bad thing; seeking what we do not know?
It can help us journey forward; after all, it’s how we grow!
Faith is found in doubtful moments, times when we cannot believe.
Christ will find us all regardless, more than we could e’er conceive!*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* W. Croft, arr. Fred Bock

Today's Worship Leaders:

Kim Skilling, Pastor
David Hughes, Hymn Leader
Carol Hughes, Pianist
Anthony Stevens, Soloist
Abbott Hatch, Sound and Video