



ANAHEIM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 21, 2021

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

You are encouraged to join us in lighting a candle in your home as the service begins.

CHORAL INTROIT *Flow Sweetly the Numbers That Dwell on His Name* G.F. Handel

CALL TO WORSHIP

God meets us in the night— before the sun rises, before the wound heals,
before there are answers, before there is closure.

**God meets us in the light— where joy is effervescent, where laughter is contagious,
where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk, and where people gather around the table.**

God meets us at the threshold— at the edge of the water, at the beginning of the wilderness,
at the start of something new, on the edge of faith.

**And if God meets us in all those places, then surely God meets us in between—
staying with us through the wilderness.**

We are not alone. God is all around.

Let us worship the God of the here and now.

HYMN NO.461 (vs. 1 & 4)

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.

God 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

God you meet us where we are for there is nowhere we can go that you are not. You were with Jesus at his baptism, you were with him in the wilderness, and even in between, you were there. We know that you are with us too— in the good, the bad, and everything in between. But so often we act like we are alone. Instead of coming to you with our hurt, we hold it in or cast it onto others. Instead of coming to you with our joy, we credit ourselves and offer you nothing. Forgive our self-centered ways. Remind us that in every breath, in every step, you are there. You are the God who meets us where we are. Before and behind, above and below, within and around. Amen.

ANTHEM

Agnus Dei

arr. Franz Schubert

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:9-15

SERMON

“Again & Again, God Meets Us”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who is everywhere and right here, bigger than the sky and in the smallest details. We believe that God meets us where we are— in heartbreak and high hopes, around crowded tables and in quiet homes, in joy and in suffering, in loneliness and in connection, in sanctuaries and in living rooms, in marches and in waiting rooms. We believe that nothing we do or leave undone can distance us from God’s love. God is forever drawing us close and pulling us in. Again and again, God meets us where we are and invites us into wholeness. Thanks be to God for a love like that.

PRAYER & 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 (v. 1 & 2)

Christ Beside Me

Christ be beside me; Christ be before me; Christ be behind me, King of my heart.

Christ be within me; Christ be below me; Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in my strife.

Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, Light of my life.

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

My Jesus, I Love Thee

arr. Jan Sanborn

Today's Worship Leaders

Kim Skilling, Pastor David Hughes, Director of Music Carol Hughes, Accompanist
AFPC Intern Choir Olivia Kellett & John Saylor, Soloists Abbott Hatch &
Rick Connor, Video and Sound *Today's prayers are by Sarah Are of Sanctified Art*