

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Voluntary: Three Pieces for Withycombe
i) Prelude
ii) Sarabande
iii) Postlude

Philip Moore

Introit: We wait for Thy loving kindness, O God William McKie, arr. M.W.

Call to Worship

He has showed you, O man, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

Hymn: 616 There's a spirit in the air

Lauds

- 1 There's a spirit in the air,
 telling Christians everywhere :
 'Praise the love that Christ revealed,
 living, working in our world !'
- 2 Lose your shyness, find your tongue,
 tell the world what God has done :
 God in Christ has come to stay.
 Live tomorrow's life today !
- 3 When believers break the bread,
 when a hungry child is fed,
 praise the love that Christ revealed,
 living, working, in our world.
- 4 Still the Spirit gives us light,
 seeing wrong and setting right :
 God in Christ has come to stay.
 Live tomorrow's life today !
7. There's a Spirit in the air,
 calling people everywhere :
 praise the love that Christ revealed,
 living, working, in our world.

***We bring to God our prayers and
The Lord's Prayer***

**Our Father,
Which art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done in 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,
The power and the glory, forever.
Amen**

We hear the Word of God

New Testament: **Acts 8:26-40**
(Read by: Neil Thrower)

²⁶ But an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert road. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And behold, an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a minister of the Can'dace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of all her treasure, had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless some one guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture which he was reading was this:

*"As a sheep led to the slaughter
or a lamb before its shearer is dumb,
so he opens not his mouth.
³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken up from the earth."*

34 And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, pray, does the prophet say this, about himself or about some one else?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this scripture he told him the good news of Jesus. 36 And as they went along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What is to prevent my being baptized?" 38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught up Philip; and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azo'tus, and passing on he preached the gospel to all the towns till he came to Caesare'a.

Amen

Children's Time

We respond to God's Word with our Offering
(Children invited to help with the Offering)

Offertory: Cantilène religieuse

Th. Dubois

Prayer

Children leave for Crèche and Sunday Club

Hymn: 715 Behold! the mountain of the Lord

Glasgow

- 1 Behold ! the mountain of the Lord
in latter days shall rise
on mountain tops above the hills,
and draw the wondering eyes.
- 2 To this the joyful nations round,
all tribes and tongues, shall flow ;
up to the hill of God, they'll say,
and to his house we'll go.

- 5 No strife shall rage, nor hostile feuds
disturb those peaceful years ;
to ploughshares men shall beat their swords,
to pruning-hooks their spears.
- 6 No longer hosts, encountering hosts,
shall crowds of slain deplore :
they hang the trumpet in the hall,
and study war no more.
- 7 Come then, O house of Jacob ! come
to worship at his shrine ;
and, walking in the light of God,
with holy beauties shine.

We bring to God our Prayers of Confession

We hear the Word of God

New Testament: **I John 4:7-21**

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his own Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ In this is love perfected with us, that we may have

confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and he who fears is not perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love, because he first loved us. ²⁰ If any one says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him, that he who loves God should love his brother also.

Amen

Anthem: Joined to Christ in mystic union

Philip Moore

Joined to Christ in mystic union -
We thy members, thou our Head -
Sealed by deep and true communion,
Ris'n with thee, who once were dead -
Saviour, we would humbly claim
All the pow'r of this thy name.

Everlasting life thou givest,
Everlasting life to see;
They shall live because thou livest,
All their life is hid with thee.
Safe thy members shall be found,
When their glorious Head is crowned.

Frances R Havergal (1836-1879)

Intimations

Hymn: 706 For the healing of the nations

Triumph

- 1 For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord ;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

- 2 Lead us forward into freedom,
 from despair your world release,
 that, redeemed from war and hatred,
 all may come and go in peace.
 Show us how through care and goodness
 fear will die and hope increase.
- 3 All that kills abundant living,
 let it from the earth be banned ;
 pride of status, race, or schooling,
 dogmas that obscure your plan.
 In our common quest for justice
 may we hallow life's brief span.
- 4 You, Creator-God, have written
 your great name on humankind ;
 for our growing in your likeness
 bring the life of Christ to mind ;
 that by our response and service
 earth its destiny may find.

Sermon

Jerusalem to Gaza

***We bring to God our prayers
of Thanksgiving and Intercession***

Hymn: 192 All my hope on God is founded

Michael

- 1 All my hope on God is founded,
 He doth still my trust he will renew ;
 Me through change and chance he guideth,
 only good and only true.
 God unknown,
 He alone
 calls my heart to be his own.

- 2 Pride of man and earthly glory,
 sword and crown betray his trust ;
 what with care and toil he buildeth,
 tower and temple fall to dust.
 But God's power,
 hour by hour,
 is my temple and my tower.
- 3 God's great goodness aye endureth,
 deep his wisdom passing thought :
 splendour, light, and life attend him,
 beauty springeth out of naught.
 Evermore,
 from his store
 new-born worlds rise and adore.
- 4 Daily doth the Almighty Giver
 Bounteous gifts on us bestow;
 his desire our soul delighteth,
 pleasure leads us where we go.
 Love doth stand
 at his hand,
 joy doth wait on his command !
- 5 Still from man to God eternal
 sacrifice of praise be done,
 high above all praises praising
 for the gift of Christ his Son.
 Christ doth call
 one and all :
 Ye who follow shall not fall.

Benediction and Choral Amen

Voluntary: Sonata no.1 in f/F (first movement only)

Mendelssohn