



Sunday, October 26, 2025
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

During the Prelude, you are invited to meditate on the Psalm of the Day as you prepare your heart and mind for worship.

Welcome and Gathering Prayer

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Prelude

"Air"

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Sebastian Silvestra, Pan Flute

Gordon Schultz, Piano

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 108:1-5

My heart, O God, is steadfast;

I will sing and make music with all my soul.

Awake, harp and lyre!

I will awaken the dawn.

I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;

I will sing of you among the peoples.

For great is your love, higher than the heavens;

your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;

let your glory be over all the earth.

Introit

"This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made"

Text: Isaac Watts; Music: Johann Crüger

IPC Singers

Cheyne Davidson, Director

*Call to Worship – Psalm 106:1-3

Bemi Okorodudu

Leader: Praise the Lord.

People: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Leader: Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare his praise?

People: Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right.

*Hymn of Praise # 260 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Gracious God, we confess before you today our unwillingness to take up our crosses and follow Jesus. We so often choose comfort over conviction, gratification over sacrifice, power over submission, gain over loss.

People: Forgive us for our lack of courage and commitment, and by your Holy Spirit teach us to lose our lives so that we might gain them.

Leader: We pray this in the name of the one who took up his cross for us, Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon – Colossians 2:13-15/Galatians 6:14 Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Leader: When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

People: May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

God's Will for Our Lives – Mark 8:34-36

Leader: Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said:

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

People: What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

***Gloria Patri #579** “Glory Be to the Father”

RECEIVING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer of Illumination

“Open My Eyes”

IPC Singers

Text and music: Clara H. Scott

Old Testament Reading – Psalm 123 (p. 623)

Bemi Okorodudu

Meditation

“Balada”

Ciprian Porumbescu (1853-1883)

Sebastian Silvestra, Pan Flute

Gordon Schultz, Piano

New Testament Reading – Luke 14:25-34 (p. 1048)

Sermon “Stories of an Alternative Reality: The Parables of Counting the Cost”

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***Hymn of Response** – #393 “Take up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

Cheyne Davidson, Elder for
Morning Worship

Offertory

“Jesus, Joy of Man’s Desiring”
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Sebastian Silvestra, Pan Flute
Gordon Schultz, Piano

***Doxology #592** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Prayers of the People

Cheyne Davidson

The Lord’s Prayer (*in unison in English or the language of your choice*)

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

GOING WITH GOD’S MISSION AND BLESSING

Welcoming Guests & Announcements

Cheyne Davidson

***Hymn of Dedication – #388** “O Jesus, I Have Promised”

*Sending and Benediction

Choral Benediction

“A Clare Benediction”
Text and music: John Rutter

IPC Singers

Postlude

“Lied ohne Worte”
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)

Sebastian Silvestra, Pan Flute
Gordon Schultz, Piano

Please remain quietly seated during the postlude. If you need to leave, please do so quietly.

****Please stand if you are able.***

Today’s bulletin cover features a photo of the Sathorn Unique Tower. The Sathorn Unique Tower is an unfinished skyscraper located in the Sathon district of Bangkok, Thailand. (Photo credit: unknown).