

PRAYER RESPONSE.....*All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night*.....Liesl Cruz
TALLIS CANON Dr. David Hobson
String Orchestra

† OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Dr. Ashley Goad

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*The Gift of Love*.....String Orchestra
[O Waly, Waly]
arr. John Rutter

† DoxologyNo. 94
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ,
whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

SCRIPTURE READING.....2 Chronicles 20:21-22, 26-28.....Rev. Derek Joyce
See scripture reading on Text Page

MESSAGE.....**BLESSING VALLEY**.....Rev. Derek Joyce

Jehoshaphat appointed musicians to play for the LORD, praising his majestic holiness. They were to march out before the warriors, saying, "Give thanks to the LORD because his faithful love lasts forever!" As they broke into joyful song and praise, the LORD launched a surprise attack against [their enemies]. (v. 21-22)

*On the fourth day they assembled in **Blessing Valley**, where they blessed the LORD. That is why it is called **Blessing Valley** to this day. Then everyone from Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat at their head, joyfully returned home to Jerusalem because the LORD had given them to rejoice over their enemies. They entered Jerusalem accompanied by harps, lutes, and trumpets, and they went to the LORD's temple. (v. 26-28)*

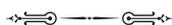
In this Old Testament story, we see a king of Judah lean faithfully into the LORD as they face a daunting enemy. We are reminded that worshippers are appointed to be on the front line of battle against the enemies of God. The LORD moves in response to worship, and the people of God arrive at the Blessing Valley. If you are overwhelmed, feeling surrounded by enemies on all sides, worship the LORD today, and watch God move. We hope to see you in the Blessing Valley!

† *HYMN OF INVITATION.....“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”.....No. 89
(During the singing of this hymn, those who wish to join the First Methodist family are invited to come to the front of the church for reception and recognition.)

BENEDICTIONDr. David Hobson

SENDING FORTH.....*Sent Forth by God’s Blessing*.....Liesl Cruz
THE ASH GROVE Dr. David Hobson

POSTLUDE.....“Hornpipe” from *Water Music*.....String Orchestra
George Frideric Handel E. Ray Peebles, organ



Crucifer – Gillian Barrett; *Acolytes*: Elizabeth Corley, Shelby Hamilton

† *Those who are able may stand.* ‡ *Latecomers may be seated at these times.*

Hymn of Praise No. 96
“Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above”

Praise the Lord who reigns above and keeps his court below;
Praise the holy God of love and all his greatness show;
Praise him for his noble deeds, praise him for his matchless power;
Him from whom all good proceeds let earth and heaven adore.

Celebrate th' eternal God with harp and psaltery,
Timbrels soft and cymbals loud in this high praise agree;
Praise with every tuneful string; all the reach of heavenly art,
All the powers of music bring, the music of the heart.

God, in whom they move and live, let every creature sing,
Glory to their Maker give, and homage to their King.
Hallowed be thy name beneath, as in heaven on earth adored;
Praise the Lord in every breath, let all things praise the Lord.

Hymn of Invitation No. 89
“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

Affirmation of Faith

No. 887

Pastor: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine,
or nakedness or peril or sword?

People: No! In all things we are more than conquerors
through the One who loved us. We are sure that neither
death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things
present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height,
nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able
to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our
Lord. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Numbers 6:22-27

The Priestly Blessing

The Lord said to Moses, “Tell Aaron and his sons, “This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

“The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”

“So they will put my name on the Israelites,
and I will bless them.”

2 Chronicles 20:21-22, 26-28

After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying:

“Give thanks to the Lord,
for his love endures forever.”

As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.

On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berakah, where they praised the Lord. This is why it is called the Valley of Berakah to this day.

Then, led by Jehoshaphat, all the men of Judah and Jerusalem returned joyfully to Jerusalem, for the Lord had given them cause to rejoice over their enemies. They entered Jerusalem and went to the temple of the Lord with harps and lyres and trumpets.