



PRELUDE

Jane Shelly

WELCOME

Pastor John

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES (at FPC and in your homes)

Linda Dragoo

We light these candles to remind ourselves of God's presence,
not only in this place, but in all places. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 116

What shall we return to the Lord
for all his bounty to us?

**We will offer to God a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the Lord.**

We will pay our vows to the Lord
in the presence of all God's people.

**In the courts of the house of the Lord,
we will praise our God!**

PRAYER AND SILENT LISTENING TO GOD

Gracious God, Your gifts surround us in all stages of our lives and in all circumstances of our lives. Help us to trust you for what we need. Help us to call on you for the strength we need for the tasks you call us to, so that we are faithful to the end. Help us to give with joy. We gather now to offer our worship to you. We bring our prayers and praises, our open ears and our willing hearts. In these few moments of silence, open our ears to hear you, and prepare our hearts for worship.

HYMN *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Linda Dragoo

Let us confess our sins to God,
whose loving-kindness endures forever.

**Gracious God, we are grateful that you bless us with much;
in fact, all that we need. We confess that too often we hold on
to all that we have and still want more. Forgive us for the times
we waste your gifts, fail to love our neighbors, and forget your
love. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive our sins, and help us to
live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus
Christ our Savior.**

Silence, a time for personal confession.

People of God, hear the good news: The God who challenges us is also
the God who encourages us. The God who confronts us is also the God
who accepts us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

THE OFFERING

Pastor John

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 10:17-31

Linda Dragoo

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him,
and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"
Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God
alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall
not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false
witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said
to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at
him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and
give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then
come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away
grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTING ON THE WORD

Pastor John

HYMN *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. *(Chorus)*

His oath, his covenant, his blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay. *(Chorus)*

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. *(Chorus)*

OUR PRAYERS TO GOD

Prayers of thanksgiving and petition may be offered, followed by:

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(or in your preferred version)*

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.

CHARGE

CLOSING RESPONSE

From where we are
to where you need us,
Jesus, now lead on.

From the security of what we know
to the adventure of what you will reveal,
Jesus, now lead on.

To refashion the fabric of this world
until it resembles the shape of your reign,
Jesus, now lead on.

Because good things have been prepared
for those who love God,
Jesus, now lead on.

Surround us with your presence,
inspire us with your purpose,
confirm us in your love.

Amen.

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

Go Now in Peace

Jane Shelly

Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you, each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know he will guide you in all you do.

Worship Leaders: Pastor John Chase, Linda Dragoo, Music Director Jane Shelly,
Accompanist Jenny Smith

Credits

Art page 1: Daniel Bonnell, *Falling (3 Crosses)*, house paint on grocery bag paper, 2011.

Opening Prayer adapted from Worship Resources for Stewardship Sunday, from the Mennonite Church in Canada, January 20, 2008.

Closing Response adapted from *A Wee Worship Book, Fourth Incarnation*, 2002, Wild Goose Worship Group, GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, 1999, p. 24, 79.

Music: *Come Thou Font of Every Blessing*, TEXT: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.

Music: *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*, TEXT: Edward Mote, c. 1834, alt.

Music: *Go Now In Peace*, TEXT: Don Besig and Nancy Price, MUSIC: Don Besig, © 1988, Harold Flammer Music, a Division of Shawnee Press, Inc.