

The First Congregational Church in Worcester

Online Worship

January 24, 2021

Prelude

God So Loved the World ~ Stainer/arr. Sewell

Ringling of the Chimes

Call to Worship

Invocation and 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 trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Responsive Reading

Psalms 62:5-12

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God,

and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.

Old Testament Reading

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

Pastoral Prayer

New Testament Reading

I Corinthians 7: 29-31

Hymn

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

A Mighty Fortress is Our God has had a part in countless celebrations commemorating the men and events of the Reformation; and its first line is engraved on the base of Luther's monument at Wittenberg...An imperishable hymn! Not polished and artistically wrought but rugged and strong like Luther himself, whose very words seem like deeds". This is a hymn close to the hearts of all Protestants, a source of assurance in times of duress and persecution. The text is not restricted, however, to times of actual physical battles. In any time of need, when we do battle with the forces of evil, God is our fortress to hide us and protect us, and the Word that endures forever will fight for us.

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing

Our Helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate: On earth is not his equal

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He
The Lord of hosts His name, from age to age the same: And He must win the battle

And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure: One little word shall fell him

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still: His kingdom is forever

Used By Permission CCLI #1480719

Gospel Reading

Mark 1: 14-20

Meditation

Benediction

Benediction Response

Go My Children

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.
In My love's baptismal river, I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing - You are My own.

Chimes

Postlude

A Mighty Fortress ~ arr. Wilson



Participants

Rev. Robert Jackson, Pastor
Scott Yonker, Minister of Music