

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Service for the Worship of God

September 18, 2011

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE *Canzonetta in A-minor* (BuxWV 225) ~ Dietrich Buxtehude Ben Heizer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Michael Ruleman

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *I Surrender All to Thee* Chancel Choir

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ Psalm 145: 1, 3, 8-9, 17, 19b-20a

L: I will extol you, my God and King, and I will bless your name for ever and ever.

P: Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and God's greatness is unsearchable.

L: The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

P: The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

L: The LORD is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.

P: The LORD hears the cry of all who fear him, and God saves them. The LORD preserves all who love him.

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER** ~ From the Church of Scotland

Almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – you created the heavens and the earth, the world and all that is in it, and you made all humanity in your image. Teach us to see your hand in all your works, in all people and places, and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN** *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* #97

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION ~ From the Church of Scotland

O Lord, holy and just God, forgive us when our lives betray the littleness of our vision, our understanding, and our service. Forgive us when we grumble instead of praise, when we resent instead of rejoice, when we withhold instead of offering all we have, and all we are. Our world is marred by self-interest and narrow vision. We look only to the needs of small groups, whose circumstances, lifestyles and viewpoints mirror our own, avoiding whole worlds of difference because we are uncertain, or frightened, or uncaring. Forgive us, and lead us on your path.

(Silent prayer and personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON ~ 1 John 2: 1-2, 12

L: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI** #813

ANTHEM *At the Feet of My Lord* ~ David N. Davenport Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S LESSON *(Preschool through 2nd grade children may be led to Junior Church following the children's message. Older children's bulletins are in the vestibule.)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON ~ Jonah 3:(1-9)10-4:11 ~ Page 801 in the pew Bible

(Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he cried, "In forty days, Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. Then the news reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, and covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he made proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; let them not feed, or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence which is in his hands. Who knows, God may yet repent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we perish not.") When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God repented of the evil which he had said he would do to them; and God did not do it.

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the LORD and said, "I pray you, LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and you repent of punishing. Therefore now, O LORD, take my life from me, I beg you, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Do you do well to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. And the LORD God appointed a plant, and made it come up over Jonah, to be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm which attacked the plant, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God appointed a sultry east wind, and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah so that he was faint; and he asked that he might die, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." And the LORD said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night, and perished in a night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

GOSPEL LESSON ~ Matthew 20: 1-16 ~ Page 854 in the pew Bible

[Jesus said], "For the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius [a silver coin worth one day's wage] a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour [9:00 a.m.] he saw others standing idle in the market place; and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour [12 noon] and the ninth hour [3 p.m.], he did the same. And about the eleventh hour [5 p.m.] he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last."

L: This is the word of the Lord; P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Those Other People" Rev. Frank Wyche

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* Inside front cover of hymnal

*HYMN *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* #355

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Thanks be to the Lord* (BuxWV 181) ~ D. Buxtehude

*DOXOLOGY #815

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S SUPPER (...debts/debtors...)

*HYMN *We've a Story To Tell to the Nations* #446

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing* Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* (BuxWV 185) ~ D. Buxtehude Ben Heizer



The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

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