

Sunday Morning Worship  
Emmanuel Presbyterian Church  
September 26, 2021

*Gathering Music*                      “Sonata No. 16, mvt. 2” by Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

This movement is a delightfully clear, yet not simplistic, example of the formal design known as the five-part rondo. One theme comes back varied, but recognizable, three times. Between the three appearances, there are two other, contrasting themes, in varying keys. Beethoven’s rondos are marvelously “correct,” but not workmanlike.

*Welcome and Announcements*

*Remembering Our Baptism*

Friends, the mercies of God are new every morning.

**This morning we celebrate that we are cleansed  
by God’s grace and also baptized with the Holy Spirit.**

*Prelude*                                      “Chorale” by William Mathias (1934-1992)

This dulcet little movement was created by a Welsh composer and organist, and published in one of his “Organ Albums.” Its title seems to indicate that it is meant to evoke the style of sixteenth-century German hymns, with its block chords in parallel motion and much stepwise melody.

*Call to Worship*

Liturgist: Judi Monson

As those who have struggled before us, we look to God for a future hope.

**Your word, O God is not empty; it is full and accomplishes  
your purpose.**

We open the treasure of our heart, asking God to fill us.

**Your word, O God, is not empty; it is full and accomplishes  
your purpose.**

\*Hymn # 463

“How Firm a Foundation”

*Prayer of Confession*

God of mercy, teach us to open our ears to your Spirit.

**Sometimes we are too busy to listen to you, Lord.**

God of mercy, help us to tune in to your voice.

**Sometimes we give too much attention to our own voice.**

God of mercy, change and open our hearts.

**Sometimes we are afraid to sit in silence with you, God.**

**God of mercy, we open our hearts to you now.\***

*Assurance of Pardon*

Just as Jesus made the deaf to hear, our merciful God speaks with compassion and tenderness. We are refreshed today, with new life in the Spirit.

*\*Sharing the Peace* "The peace of Christ be with you," **"And also with you."**

*Prayer for Illumination*

**Lord, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may hear your Word with joy. Amen.**

*New Testament Reading:* 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.



This is one of several organ compositions of Buxtehude after the well-known and loved German hymn *Nun lob, mein Seel, den Herren*.

\*Please stand if it is comfortable for you to do so.

\*Prayer of Confession, from "Feasting on the Word" volume 2, page 8.

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## How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!  
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;  
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

