



PRELUDE

Paraguayan Harp Tune arr. A. Gout

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

INTROIT

Erev Shel Shoshanim arr. S. Staneslow

CALL TO WORSHIP

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

#3 God, We Praise You! RUSTINGTON

***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 who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess confusion about stones,
about softness, about hardness.
When should we be soft?
When should we be hard?
Soft and loving, or firm and steadfast?
We hear no calls to hardness that we understand.
Maybe if the world were simpler,
some things we thought were important
would no longer seem to matter.

We try not to stone Stephen,
but we can remember times we did,
or might as well have.
Maybe it's our need to be right,
standing on a firm foundation.
Confusing softness and hardness.

The calls to softness are lighter:
Love your neighbour as yourself.
That's an appealing softness;
a warmth, a care, a love.
But when the neighbour is hard?
Back to confusion.
If I was less hard on myself,
would I be less hard on my neighbour?

We confess confusion about stones.
About softness, about hardness.
We've never heard you called 'the great unraveller'
although you often unravel us.
We trust you to unravel this confusion.

(Silence for personal confession and reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI**

R. Goodson

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and
Ever shall be, world without end. Amen

FIRST READING

Acts 6:8-15 Pages 128-9, 2nd half of the NRSV Bible
Response to the reading: "Thanks be to God"

OFFERING OF MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Simple Gifts arr. D. Burton

LITANY

One: God, you are justice and you are love.
Many: Keep us from picking up the stones.
One: God, you are freedom and you are limits.
Many: Keep us from picking up the stones.
One: God, your universe encompasses life and death.
Many: Keep us from picking up the stones.
One: God, you are the judge and you are merciful.
Many: Keep us from picking up the stones.
One: God, you are soft and you are hard.
All: Keep us from picking up the stones.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

#448 In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful (sing 3x) Taizé

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response to Prayers of the People: "Lord in your mercy,
thank you for hearing and answering our prayers."

***HYMN OF MEDITATION**

#446 O Love That Will Not Let Me Go ST. MARGARET

SECOND READING

Acts 7:51-60 Pages 130-1, 2nd half of the NRSV Bible
Response to the reading: "Thanks be to God"

SERMON "Be Careful, Listen!"

Rev. Dr. Ryan Sato

CELEBRATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Les Pins de Charlannes H. Renié

***New Doxology**

Let's praise God for each good thing. M. Adria
All creation, shout and sing!
Praise three persons, yet one Love:
Maker, Saviour, Holy Dove! Amen
***Prayer of Gratitude**

***HYMN FOR THE JOURNEY**

#440 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us BRADBURY

***THE BLESSING OF THE COMMUNITY**

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of
God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.
People: And also with you.

***The Sending of the Community**

***Congregational Amen**

The service of the church into the world - - begins again this week

POSTLUDE

O'Carolan's Concerto arr. L. Paulson

***Please stand, as you are able**

We are grateful for those who serve with us today: ok
Writing Prayers - Grant McIntyre;
Prayers of the People - Christina Ward;
Guest Organist - Jane Fagnan;
Offering of Music - Jane Fagnan and Nora Bumanis

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