

company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

SERMON

“Holy Friendship”

Barbara Papagian

CLOSING HYMN # 612

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

CLOSING WORDS

BENEDICTION

**May we be courageous in the work we do,
Generous in the love we give,
And gracious to all we meet,
That the name of our Lord may be praised throughout this week.
Amen**

POSTLUDE

“Poco Vivace” – Hermann Schroeder

Please note: In these difficult times, we are holding you all in our thoughts and prayers. For those who are able, we are grateful for your continuing contributions to the stewardship of our church.

Introit (Hymn No. 263)**“Surely the Presence of the Lord”**

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I can feel his mighty power and his grace. I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face; surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Opening Hymn No. 527**“More Love to Thee, O Christ”**

1. More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee! Hear thou the pray'r I make, on bended knee; this is my earnest plea, more love, O Christ, to thee, more love to thee, more love to thee.
2. Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest; now thee alone I seek, give what is best; this all my pray'r shall be, more love, O Christ, to thee, more love to thee, more love to thee.
3. Let sorrow do its work, send grief and pain; sweet are thy messengers, sweet their refrain, when they can sing with me, more love, O Christ, to thee, more love to thee, more love to thee.
4. Then shall my latest breath whisper thy praise; this be the parting cry my heart shall raise, this still its pray'r shall be, more love, O Christ, to thee, more love to thee, more love to thee.

Prayer Response (#579)**“Standing in the Need of Prayer”**

Refrain:

It's me (it's me), it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. It's me (it's me), it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.

1. Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.
2. Not the preacher, not the teacher, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. Not the preacher, not the teacher, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.
3. Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.
4. Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.

Closing Hymn No. 612**“O Jesus, I Have Promised”**

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; be thou for ever near me, my master and my friend; I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

2. O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear; my foes are ever near me, around me and within; but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

3. O let me hear thee speaking, in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will; O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

4. O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be; and, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; O give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.