From whirlwind and burning bush, in still of night and in sheer silence—

**God calls the faithful to sacred work.**

Beckoning us to turn aside, inviting us to stand on holy ground—

**God welcomes the faithful into sacred space.**

Come, God is calling.

**Let us worship the Lord!**
**HYMN 405**

Praise God for This Holy Ground

1. Praise God for this holy ground.
   place and people, sight and sound.

   *Refrain*

   Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
   God's goodness is eternal.

2. Praise God in whose word we find
   food for body, soul, and mind.

   *Refrain*

3. Praise God who through Christ makes known
   all are loved and called God's own.

   *Refrain*

4. Praise God's Spirit who befriends,
   raises, humbles, breaks, and mends.

   *Refrain*

5. Though praise ends, praise is begun
   where God's will is gladly done.

   *Refrain*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Compassionate God, who hears the cries of the oppressed, you call us to resist evil and hold fast to what is good, to take up the cross and commit our lives to the cause of love. But we are afraid to confront powers that privilege some and diminish others; we do not want to lose the security we enjoy. Forgive us. Open our ears to hear your voice, our eyes to look upon neighbors in need, and our hearts to respond with compassion, that we might follow the way of Christ. Hear now the prayers we bring to you in silence …

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**GOD'S WORD TO US**

**ANTHEM**

"The Call" from *Five Mystical Songs*
Sung by the Meeting House Virtual Choir
Text by George Herbert (1593–1633)
Mike Rowan, baritone solo

Ralph Vaughan Williams
1872–1958
Arr. Steven Seigart
b. 1990

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Matthew 16:21–28

Mrs. Mary Pratt Perry

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

The Brewer Family

**SERMON**

To Take Up a Cross

Dr. Robert R. Laha

**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

God sent Jesus to proclaim release to those who are bound, to announce that God’s promised kingdom is at hand, to urge everyone to repent and believe the good news. The Lord is moving toward the time when the glorious liberty of the children of God will be manifest throughout the whole creation. We testify that God is at work here and now when people obey Christ's commission to witness to him, when they spread the good news by their words and embody it in their lives.

Mrs. Noelle Castin
Adapted from *A Declaration of Faith*, 1977
INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Katherine A. Stanford

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Rev. Ann Herlin

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN 372

1. O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways, where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

2. O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved, where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

3. We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

4. The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the foolish ones are wise. Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

5. O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace, where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Dr. Robert R. Laha

RESPONSE 600

Amen

African-American Traditional

Performed by the Meeting House Virtual Choir

Want to add to our virtual "amen" video? Go to opmh.org/amen.

POSTLUDE

"Intermezzo" from First Suite in E-flat

Gustav Holst

Transcribed by Luigi Mengoni

b. 1970

An online version of this bulletin is available at opmh.org/pentecost13.

Read Dr. Seigart's detailed notes on the music at opmh.org/sundaymusic.

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