

May 9, 2021
Sixth Sunday of Easter

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "God, Give us Christian Homes by B.B.McKinney arr. by Cindy Berry"

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...

Call to Worship

You nudge us out of our safe places and into the world around us.

**You guide us to the homeless, the addict, the mentally unstable,
the unholy ones along the byways of the world.**

You urge us to reach out, to make contact with those who are not like us.

You give us words of unconditional welcome for all we meet.

You unite us in the power of your Holy Spirit,

That, in the end, Your family might be made complete.

Hymn VU 268 "Bring Many Names" vs. 1, 2, 4, 5

1 Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and hosanna! Bring many names!

2 Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation, genius at play:
Hail and hosanna, strong mother God!

4 Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and hosanna, old, aching God!

5 Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and hosanna, young, growing God!

Opening Prayer

Holy One, you fall upon us like pollen from the tree blossoms, righteous and unrighteous alike.

You plant your gifts in our hearts and in our souls, righteous and unrighteous alike.

We who feel we are righteous think it unfair that you bless those we judge to be unrighteous.

How dare you! Yet, You created us all, and bless us all, no matter what. Help us to see that which we have in common and not that which separates us; help us to accept and love one another as you loved us - unconditionally; help us to be one family. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Hymn VU 359 "He Came Singing Love"

- 1 He came singing love and he lived singing love;
he died singing love. He arose in silence.
For the love to go on we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.
- 2 He came singing faith and he lived singing faith;
he died singing faith. He arose in silence.
For the faith to go on we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.
- 3 He came singing hope and he lived singing hope;
he died singing hope. He arose in silence.
For the hope to go on we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.
- 4 He came singing peace and he lived singing peace;
he died singing peace. He arose in silence.
For the peace to go on we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.

Time for the Young and the Young @



Anthem: "You Raise Me Up" By David Foster and Josh Groban

Responsive Reading: Psalm 98

Sing to God a new song,

for God has done marvellous things.

Your right hand and your holy arm have brought victory.

**You have made known your salvation,
and revealed before the nations your saving power.**

You have remembered your steadfast love
and faithfulness to the house of Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

break into joyous praise, sing psalms.

Sing psalms to God with the harp,

with the harp and melodious voice.

With trumpets, and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before our sovereign God.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,

the world, and its inhabitants.

Let the rivers clap their hands,

the hills sing together for joy before God.

You come to judge the earth, O God,

**to judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.**

Scripture: Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶ for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17.** You can look them up on www.biblegateway.com and search for the passage..... in any translation you prefer (ie. King James - KJV, NKJV, NRSV, etc.)*

Meditation: “Boundary Breaker”

Hymn VU 375 “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

Refrain: Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.

- 1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings. **R**
- 2 You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes. **R**
- 3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. **R**
- 4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise. **R**

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

In the gospel lesson today Jesus commands us to “love one another as [Jesus has] loved [us.]” And how did Jesus love us? Unconditionally! This is not voluntary. We did not make the choice. We were chosen, by God, and we have been appointed, by God, to bear fruit that lasts. And what is that kind of fruit? Not the wax banana, apple, and orange in the 1950's fruit basket, but the actions that transform lives...you know, things like pushing for all people around the world to be treated with dignity and respect, and to have access to a living wage, decent appropriate shelter, clean safe drinking water, food, health care, and so on. And so we pray:

Holy One, may all that we offer, time, skill, and yes, even money, be used to transform lives and to transform this world into something that more closely resembles your greatest hopes and dreams for it. May all that we offer be a blessing to those we love, and to those we find unlovable. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

O God, our Creator, our Centre, our Friend, we thank you: for the blessings of life, for those who are dear to us, especially our mothers, for those we love but have now died, and for all who have helped and influenced us. Most of all we thank you for the faith that is in us, for our awareness of you, and our hope in you. Lord, hear our prayers:

We pray for the church and its varied ministries: ministers and laity, outreach ministries, youth leaders, musicians, preachers, teachers, theologians and dreamers, for all who have heard your call, raised hand and heart in answer, and taken step on your path. Especially we pray for Dawn Valley – Oil Springs Pastoral Charge.

We pray for the earth and all its peoples, especially this day we pray for the people of India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, especially as the pandemic spirals out of control in that part of the world.

We pray for all who mourn.

We pray for the bent and broken, the jubilant and rejoicing, the sick and dying, especially Rev. Lynne Allin, Jim Duffin, Rob Ford, Andy Linell, Cathy Sargent, and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

We pray for loved ones, family, friends, partners and parents. For those living the agony and ecstasy of parenthood we ask guidance, strength, and wisdom. For those caring for elderly parents and loved ones, who may already be feeling orphaned or widowed, bring rest and hope and moments of peace that sustain and strengthen,

We pray for those whom we struggle to love: people whose power over us is a weight on our shoulders; people whose needs and expectations seem far greater than we can meet; people with whom it sometimes is far easier to be angry than forgiving. For all those who have hurt us in ways both vicious and subtle, and acknowledging our own shortcomings, we pray,

Finally, we pray for ourselves: embarking on new ventures; releasing the past or clinging to memories; in our work and in our play; in our relationships and in our learnings; in our experiences and in our triumphs; in our sorrows and in our temptations. In the times when think we live in your absence, remind us of your presence and bring us hope.

We gather all of these prayers and lift them up to you in the words that Jesus taught us, singing:

(VU 959)

Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil

for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now as forever.

Amen.

Hymn VU 512 "Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

- 1 Lord, you give the great commission:
'Heal the sick and preach the word.'
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.
- 2 Lord, you call us to your service:
'In my name baptize and teach.'
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervour, draw us closer in community;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.
- 3 Lord, you make the common holy:
'This my body, this my blood.'
Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us share your children's liberty;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.
- 4 Lord, you show us love's true measure:
'Father, what they do, forgive.'
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.
- 5 Lord, you bless with words assuring:
'I am with you to the end.'
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend,
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

Commissioning and Benediction

Like a good mother,
may we be a source of nurture and sustenance for the community around us.

Like a good mother,
may we offer safe space to all who feel threatened.

Like a good mother,
may we open our arms wide to embrace children who are not our own.

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus, the Christ,
the love of God,

And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us,
this day, and always.

Amen.

Sung Response: VU 884 "You Shall Go Out with Joy"

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap, clap)
while you go out with joy.

Postlude: "Spirit of God Descends Upon My Heart. Morecombe. Arr.by Frederick Atkinson"

Announcements.....

Scripture Lessons for next week:

Ascension (Thursday): Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

7th Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

Anthem: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHCcx47ZENk>