

May 16, 2021
Seventh of Easter

We Gather In God's Presence

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering In Song MV 45 "You Are Holy"

You are holy, you show us the way,
you are holy, you show us the way.
You show us, you show us, you show us the way,
you show us, you show us, you show us the way.

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

Call to Worship

Society tries to convince us that we are consumers,
**But we turn our back on society and listen to God,
Who tells us we are God's beloved.**
Society tries to convince us of all we lack and ought to yearn for,
**But we turn our backs on society and listen to God,
Who tells us we lack for nothing.**

Society tries to convince us that we are fools
for believing in an imaginary God,
**But we turn our backs on society and rejoice in God,
In whom we live, and move, and have our being.**

Let us worship God and work to build God's dominion,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Hymn VU 409 "Morning Has Broken"

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.
- 3 Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Opening Prayer (unison) *adapted from the work of Thom M. Shuman © 2021....and used with permission*

We do not notice, Holy God, but you give us:
time, so we can think about your Word;
silence, so it may fill our emptiness;
wisdom, so we may know the path to walk.

We do not notice, Risen Christ, how you have not given just a piece of yourself, or a portion of your grace, but all of who you are: for us - and yet, you regard **US** as God's amazing gift to you!

We do not notice, Nourishing Spirit, how you remove our fears, simply by sitting with us and holding our hearts; or how you swirl around us, pulling us deeper and deeper into love, grace and peace, until we find ourselves rooted forever in the One who watches over us forever. Forgive our foolishness for thinking we could be happy sitting in the comfortable seats of seduction, scoffing at your call to discipleship; or running down the easy streets of sin, rather than following the difficult way of Jesus; or idolizing celebrities while ignoring those who give of themselves serving us in food production facilities, distribution centers, and health care facilities. Open our ears to hear your call anew, and open our hearts to follow your lead in the service of the vulnerable and marginalized in this world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem:

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 299 "Teach Me, God, to Wonder"

1 Teach me, God, to wonder, teach me, God, to see;
let your world of beauty capture me.
Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.

2 Let me, God, be open, let me loving be;
let your world of people speak to me.
Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.

3 Let me, God, be ready, let me be awake,
in your world of loving my place take.
Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.

4 Teach me, God, to know you, hear you when you speak,
see you in my neighbour when we meet.
Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy and compassionate God, we come into your presence today hoping in some way to touch you, to see for ourselves the truth of your resurrection. Gather up our lingering fears and confusion, meet our doubts with compassion and understanding. Open our eyes to your love and grace surrounding us. Open our ears to hear you calling us to new challenges. Open our imaginations to new possibilities. Open our hearts to your Commonwealth made real here on earth as in heaven. Come anew to all who have been unable to believe;

come anew to all who have known you but turned away from you.

Come with the fire of renewed passion to reignite your church that it may fulfill your mission, especially we pray this week for Knox Pastoral Charge in Embro.

Come bearing new hope and restored dreams for the earth and all its inhabitants, especially we pray for the people of Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal.

Come with compassion to those who mourn.....

Come with healing and comfort to those who are ill or dying, awaiting treatment or recovering from medical intervention, especially we pray for Rev. Lynne Allin, Pastor Mark Beach and his wife, Jim Duffin, Rob Ford, Andy Linell, Bill Parcels, and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

Come and bless those who gave us birth and who raised us to be the people we are today, our mothers. Help us, all of us, to experience you standing in our midst, saying, "Peace be with you." May our broken world and our broken lives be transformed in your image. We offer woundedness and turn to you for healing and newness of life, for you, O God, are our strength, our hope, and our salvation. All this we pray in the name of the one who taught us to pray, 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 and forever.

Amen.

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

In the life and person of Jesus, God has made known God's grace and how to live a life abundant. We are called to witness to the grace of God. We are called to witness to the grace of God, and if necessary to use words. We witness to the grace of God when we support the homeless, the addicted, the mentally ill, the sick, the prisoner, the hungry, the vulnerable, and the marginalized in our society. We witness to the grace of God through acts of kindness, and through our tithes and offerings.

Holy One, may all that we offer be used to heal the broken lost in the systems we have created, to feed those who don't have the forms filled out correctly, and to bring hope to those who wander the shadowy alleys of despair. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 1

Blessed are those who do not follow the counsel
of the wicked, or linger in the way of sinners,
or sit down among those who mock.

**But their delight is in the law of God,
and on that law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted beside streams of water,
yielding their fruit in due season.

**Their leaves do not wither,
and whatever they produce shall prosper.**

As for the wicked, it is not so with them,

**but they are like the chaff,
driven away by the wind.**

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand

when judgement comes,

nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

**For God watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Scripture: 1 John 5:9-13

⁹ If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰ Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; John 17:6-19**. 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.)*

Hymn VU 313 "God, Whose Almighty Word"

- 1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight,
hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.
- 2 Jesus, who came to bring
on your redeeming wing, healing and sight,
health to the troubled mind, sight to the Spirit-blind,
O now to humankind let there be light.
- 3 Spirit of truth and love,
lifegiving, holy dove, speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face, bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place let there be light.

- 4 Blessed and holy three,
glorious trinity, wisdom, love, might,
boundless as ocean's tide rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide, let there be light.

Meditation: "Good News, or Fake News?"

We Go Forth, Serving God

Hymn VU 120 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
- 2 O let me feel you 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, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.
- 3 O let me hear you 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;
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.
- 4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.

Commissioning and Benediction

From the comfort of this time,
to the discomfort of discipleship,

we go to serve your people,

we go to wrap others in your grace,

we will go to discover the truth you share in every moment.

May your grace, love, and presence go with us,
this day and always.

Amen.

Sung Response: VU 424 "May the God of Hope Go with Us" vs. 1

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Announcements.....

Reminder: Next Sunday we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. Please have some bread and juice or wine ready to celebrate with one another.

Scripture Readings for next week: Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35*b*; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4*b*-15