

May 8, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Easter

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "God, Give Us Christian Homes" B.B. McKinney Arr. 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

This is the season of Easter:

the celebration of resurrection,

the festival of hope,

the promise of new beginnings,

the dance of faith,

the song of joy,

the music of gladness,

the hymn of love.

Let us worship our life-giving God!

Hymn VU 87 "I Am the Light of the World"

'I am the light of the world!

You people come and follow me!

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found
their way home,

the work of Christmas is begun:

'I am the light of the world!

You people come and follow me!

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth
and good food,

to feel the earth below, the sky above!

'I am the light of the world!

You people come and follow me!

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere!

'I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth!

'I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Good Shepherd, you would grant us peace and rest in places of beauty, yet we wage acts of violence, war and terror against one another. You offer draughts of cool, refreshing living-water, yet we would rather drink from the wells of bitterness, anger and revenge. You offer a feast of the bread of life, yet we would rather gorge on greed, materialism and hatred. Forgive us Lord. Anoint our lives with holy purpose. Guide safely home our faltering feet. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "I Will Sing to Our God" lyrics by Walter Farquharson music by Robert Hall

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

he leadeth me beside still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness

for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil:

for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me

in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life;

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Scripture: John 10:22-30

Jesus Is Rejected by the Jews

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **Acts 9:36-4;***

***Revelation 7:9-17.** 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: "Selective Hearing"

Hymn VU 270 "Dear Mother God"

Dear Mother God, your wings are warm around us,
we are enfolded in your love and care;
safe in the dark, your heartbeat's pulse surrounds us,
you call to us, for you are always there.

You call to us, for we are in your image.
We wait on you, the nest is cold and bare;
high overhead your wingbeats call us onward.
Filled with your power, we ride the empty air.

Let not our freedom scorn the needs of others -
we climb the clouds until our strong heart sings;
may we enfold our sisters and our brothers,
till all are strong, till all have eagles' wings.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

God blesses us with life, with nourishment, both physical and spiritual, with companionship in every moment, in both trials and joys. In recognition of all the blessings which God pours out on our lives in abundance, we offer our tithes and our gifts back to God, through the church.

Offertory Hymn MV 191 "What Can I Do?"

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

Prayer of Dedication

God, you are like a shepherd to us and you lead us to green pastures. When our cup overflows, inspire our generosity so that we may give joyfully and generously for the work of your church, both nearby and far away. In your name we ask. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Lord of all being and source of every blessing, we thank you for all the good things: for life and love, for health and food, for work and home, for memory and hope, for men and women. Especially today we pray for women:

We pray for women who laugh and for women who weep.

We pray for women who are leaders in their jobs and professions
and for women who work behind the scenes.

We pray for women who are scholars and artists
and for women who have never been given a book or a paint brush.

We pray for women who help their countries to win wars
and for women who help their countries avoid wars.

We pray for women who bring God's comfort into homes and hospitals
and for women who cry out for comfort.

We pray for women who reach out to feed and nurture others
and for women who are hungry and malnourished.

We pray for women who have brought new life into the world
and for women who have given birth to words and ideas and music.

May your creativity and comfort accompany all women throughout life and beyond.

We pray also for your church, the bride of Christ. Inspire the whole church with your power, unity and peace. Grant that all who trust you may live out your Word in love and peace. This week we hold Littlewood United Church, and their minister, the Rev. Sue Browning, in our prayers.

We pray for the peoples of this world that all may have what is needed to live lives of dignity, peace, and joy. This week we hold the people of India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka in our prayers.

We pray for all who mourn a loss. May they find comfort and peace.

We pray for all who are sick or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment, especially Jack, Marlene, Scott, Tucker, Paul, and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our hearts.....

May you bring them to a place of healing and wholeness in their lives.

All this we pray in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you, O God, in the unity of your Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and who taught us to pray, saying,

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 sins,

as we forgive those who sin 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.

Hymn VU 626 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

I heard the voice of Jesus say,

'Come unto me and rest;

lay down, O weary one, lay down

your head upon my breast.'

I came to Jesus as I was,

weary and worn and sad;

I found in him a resting place,

and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,

'Behold, I freely give

the living water; thirsty one,

stoop down, and drink, and live.'

I came to Jesus, and I drank

of that life-giving stream;

my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,

and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
 and all your day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
 in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
 till travelling days are done.

Commissioning and Benediction

Reach out into the world with hands of love.

We reach out in Jesus' name.

Walk out into the world with steps of faith.

We walk out to where the Spirit beckons.

Speak out into a world yearning for good news.

**We speak words of God's grace,
knowing that we are never alone,
God is with us, this day and always.**

Thanks be to God.

Sung Response: MV 220 "Hope Shines as the Solitary Star"

Hope shines as the solitary star. Faith is the inner light.

You and I together mirror the Light of Lights, and illumine the pathway home.

Postlude: "Amazing Grace" In a setting of Edvard Grieg's Morning Mood , Peer Gynt Suite No.1
Early American Melody, arr. Cindy Berry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL:

Outdoor Bake and Plant Sale: May 14, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Union United Church

DORCHESTER:

Donations of food for the Dorchester Food Bank may be left in the box next to the back door.

UNION:

May Outreach: Second Stage Housing..... wish list:

Garbage bags, bleach, Lysol spray or wipes, liquid hand soap, dish soap, paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissues, craft supplies, or monetary donations. Please leave items in the bin at the rear of the sanctuary.

Yard Clean Up May 4, 9:00 a.m., rain date May 5. Please bring a rake and gloves.

We are collecting pop cans again. Leave the bags of cans at the back door of the church.

Scripture Readings for next week: May 15, 2022. Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35