

May 22, 2022  
Sixth Sunday of Easter

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Prelude:** "His Eye is in the Sparrow" Music C.H. Gabriel arr. Philip Keveren

**Moment of Silent Reflection**

**Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation**

**Call to Worship**

Easter has opened the gate to new life.

**What was closed to us is now open.**

We are bathed in the water that flows from the river of life.

**The entire cosmos will be renewed.**

Let us join in a worship of praise to the One who has made all things new.

**The season is over, but this is not the end.**

**Hymn VU #710** Shall We Gather at the River

**Easter Prayer VU #188** (*unison*)

**We Are Blessed By God**

**Ministry of Music:** Piano Transcription of "All Things Bright and Beautiful" John Rutter

**Time for the Young and the Young @ Heart**

**Hymn VU #296** This is God's Wondrous World

**First lesson** Acts 16: 9-15

Responsive Psalm 67 VU #786

**Second lesson** Revelation 21: 10, 22- 22:5

**Sermon "God's design for the world"**

**Hymn VU #709** O holy City Seen of John

**We Respond To God's Grace**

**Invitation to Invest in God's Mission**

**Offertory Hymn MV #542** "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.

## **Offertory Prayer**

Merciful and compassionate God, we rejoice that we are always in your gracious care.

**You are present to us even when we turn away from you.**

Your love exceeds our self-serving ways.

**We offer these gifts today in a token of our gratitude for not abandoning us.**

Show us how to live in a world where your love and mercy are never far from us.

**May your steadfast love save us from our wanton desire to make it our own.**

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession followed by the Lord's Prayer**

We seek you O Creator, as the season turns, for you have determined the measure of all things visible and invisible. You have set limits to the universe and to the worlds we inhabit. And so, we offer all praise and thanks to you, Gracious One. Empires rise and fall according to your will. By giving our allegiance to worldly structures and institutions, we forget that it is your rule and not ours that brought creation into being. By seeking doctrinal uniformity, we have quenched the spirit that unites us. By erecting Temples, Cathedrals, Churches and other places of worship we have sought to isolate and place limits on the freedom that Jesus has come to embody.

O Incarnate One, you are the great iconoclast who breaks worldly traditions by upending the values we cherish and hold dear. Forgive us for trying to minimize all you have done to reshape us in your image. It is not the city of our dreams that exiles behold, but one in which your purpose and intention are made real. You never shut your people out for your grace is new every day and your light shines into the darkest corners of the world. The gates of your city remain open to all who love justice and freedom. Remind us again that you minister to us not because of what we believe but for what we need. It is not the piety of our worship leaders, nor even our own, that has brought you among us, but your desire to remove every sign of suffering in our bent and broken world.

God of Easter, your life and reign among us is the assurance we have that the homeless will live in houses they have built and drink not from empty cisterns but from life-giving waters. May the message of the prophet and the vision of the evangelist fill the yearning of every heart that earnestly seeks to do your will. And may the name that is on our lips be heard wherever pain and suffering are felt. AMEN

**Hymn VU 678** "For the Healing of the Nations"

## **Commissioning and Benediction**

Called to give life giving fruit, go and follow the One who makes all things new.

**May God's ways continue to be revealed to us in our daily lives.**

The Holy Spirit will confirm the truth that is in you and make your joy complete.

**We go in peace to love and serve others.**

**Sung Response:** VU #961

**Postlude: "Day by Day"** Oscar Ahnfelt arr. Tom Fettke

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS...**

### **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.

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

### **DORCHESTER:**

The **Holy Diner** will be starting up again this summer! All those interested in assisting in this community ministry please contact Brenda Olejnik 519-268-3385 or Carol Reid 519-268-3129.

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

### **Lectionary Readings for next week:**

(May 29, Seventh of Easter)

Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26