

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 2019

11:00 A.M.

Together in Christ, Reaching Beyond Our Doors.

GATHERING TO PRAISE

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GETTING ACQUAINTED

Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance Card as it is passed.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

This is God's house – a place of peace where we befriend one another in the name of Christ. Greet those around you as a sign of God's peace and Christ's friendship.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Welcome to this house of prayer,

ALL: A spiritual home for all who enter here.

One: Welcome to this house of community,

ALL: Friend and Stranger, Saint and Sinner, caught in joy or grief or somewhere in between.

One: Come with hope or hesitation. Come with your hunger and thirst.

ALL: We gather to encounter our God of Love and Grace.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

No. 92

A TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR CHILDREN

"Let us Break Bread Together" (congregation sings)

Let us praise God together on your knees, let us praise God together on your knees.

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on Me.

CONFIRMANDS TAKING MEMBERSHIP VOWS

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH—Creed inspired by our 8th grade confirmands (see below)

BLESSING OVER OUR CONFIRMANDS

CONNECTING WITH GOD IN PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Ecumenical Version)

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 for ever. Amen.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

CHORAL ANTHEM

"A Gaelic Blessing"

John Rutter

Deep peace of the running wave to you. Deep peace of the flowing air to you. Deep peace of the quiet earth to you. Deep peace of the shining stars to you. Deep peace of the gentle night to you. Moon and stars pour their healing light on you. Deep peace of Christ, of Christ the light of the world to you. Deep peace of Christ to you.

HEARING OF THE GOSPEL

John 12:24-26

(NT p. 106)

Leader: The Word of God. **All: For the People of God.** Leader: Thanks be to God.

The Resurrection Shaped Life:

MESSAGE "Turning Suffering & Setbacks into Acts of Service"

BRINGING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(see below)

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Come forward as directed, where you will be given a piece of bread and which you may dip in the cup (gluten-free bread is also available). Please let an usher know if you cannot come forward so the elements can be brought to you. **During this time you are invited to bring your offering forward to the plates available on the chancel.** Those in the balcony may remain seated, servers will come to you. Our Stephen Ministers are positioned in the back of the sanctuary to offer a blessing prayer. You may stop there before or after receiving communion.*

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Hymn During Communion "Let us Break Bread Together"

No. 618

*DOXOLOGY

No. 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF GOING FORTH

"We Come to This Table"

(see below)

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

"Namaste"

Diane Clark

*POSTLUDE

*You are invited to remain seated for the postlude as part of your worship experience.
(If you choose to exit the sanctuary during the postlude, please do so quietly. Thank you.)*

*All who are comfortable standing are invited to stand.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: The risen Christ is with us.

ALL: Praise the Lord.

One: When the time was right,

God sent Jesus to be among us.

Born into this life,

seeing Your grace revealed in all things,

he laughed with those who laughed,

and mourned with those who mourned.

Through Your love, he healed the sick,
he welcomed the outcast,
he challenged those in power,
and the structures that kept them there.

ALL: And he called us back to Your love.

One: In the power of the Holy Spirit,
the Christ laughs and cries,
heals and welcomes,
challenges and loves,
again and again and again.

We have been told that,
on the night before he was taken
to be tortured to death on a cross,
Jesus sat with his disciples,
and ate with them, in a meal of remembrance.

Jesus took a loaf of bread,
asked Your blessing upon it, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples saying:

**ALL: "Take this – all of you – and eat it.
This is me. My Body. Given for you.
Each time you eat it, remember me."**

One: Close to the meal's end,
he took a cup filled with wine,
asked Your blessing upon it,
and gave it to his disciples saying:

Take this – all of you – and drink it.
This is me. This is my promise in my life's blood -
poured out for you and for the world."

**ALL: Each time you drink it, remember me.
So we, his disciples,
eat bread and drink from the cup – and remember.**

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH (*Creed inspired by our 8th grade confirmands*)

Confirmands: We declare our faith today, as well as we know it. And here is what we know –

Pastor: God is Creator, the patient Creator of all that is. The master painter always adding to the masterpiece. Light and dark, color and shadow, seen and unseen. God does not control every detail, but means for all Creation to be good and fit together.

Men/Boys: God is in Christ, the one we call Jesus. He walked among us, felt what we feel, but he is so much more. He came as the One who saves, to show us a better way. Christ is strong but not aggressive. Truth-telling but not arrogant. A tough coach but not mean. His willingness to die for Love is a reminder of the beautiful life we are given, worth protecting each other. Grace wins, so we are to take nothing for granted, but dare to love his way.

Women/Girls: God is also Holy Spirit, giving me confidence to be who God wants me to be. The Spirit is the better voice to listen to, rather than the chatter of just me. The Spirit guides in ways we barely understand, but always steering us toward Love & right relationships. The Spirit is a bridge-builder, making a way where there was no way - between enemies & friends & churches & nations. With so much darkness around, Holy Spirit shines a way like a big ole' ball of Light.

Confirmands: God works through many groups of people, and especially that group called the Church. It is not perfect, but God seems to show up there a lot. We find guidance there for things we might not be able to handle on our own, to love this world in big ways we might not pull off on our own. The Church is old but it is new, every week a new piece of the story, learning how to let God in. Church is like school for our souls. It is the place where I learn to see vividly that God is here for others as much as for me. God is love; what more can we say!

HYMN OF GOING FORTH "We Come to This Table"

(Sung to the tune: "We Gather Together")

We've dined at your table as sisters and brothers,
Diverse in our backgrounds, yet nourished as one.
The bread and the cup that we've shared here with others
Are gifts uniting all who are claimed by your Son.

We grieve for your world here; we cry, "How much longer?"
We pray for the cycles of violence to cease.
Yet here, in Christ broken, we're fed and made stronger
To labor in his name for a world filled with peace.

We rise from this table with new dedication
To feed the world's children, to free the oppressed,
To comfort the suffering, to care for creation;
We pray, O God of peace, that our actions will bless.