A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023 8:30 and 11:00 am

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING . . .

The Prelude

Trio, mvt. II
Tina Christie, flute; Brendan Shirk, oboe

Bill Douglas

The Welcome and Announcements

This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The Introit

There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit
Hymn 408

The Call To Worship

Still waters, green pastures, such is the path by which God leads us.

Oil running over, the cup of blessing filled, such is the feast God prepares.

Even when our way is hard and the way forward unknown, unclear,

God walks beside us, God walks us home.

The Prayer of Adoration

Almighty God, you have given to each of us the breath of life. We praise you for this inestimable gift. Long ago, you breathed life into the church through the gift of the Holy Spirit. We praise you for the gift of the church across the centuries and to this present day. May we live to praise you, offering all glory and honor to you, with our words and our deeds. Amen.

*The Hymn 305

Come Sing, O Church in Joy!
Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!
Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,
Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!
Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,
As we in mission magnify the Crucified!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!
Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o’er the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

*The Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we come before you in confession seeking your grace and pardon. We desire to walk in faithfulness and trust, but so often do not. We do not pray as we ought or share our bread. Petty divisions overtake us, injuring our unity as the body of Christ. Forgive us, we pray. Turn our hearts toward you, O God, and toward one another in love and generosity. Restore to us the joy of living in community, with peace and goodwill toward all people. Hear us now as we offer our silent prayers of confession...silent prayer...Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Christ came into the world offering grace, mercy, and peace.

In Christ, we have been given a new living hope. We receive forgiveness and are set free to love and serve God. Thanks be to God!

*The Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end. Amen

*The Peace and Greeting
Welcome of New Members (8:30am service): Jim and Joyce Campbell, and Sheryl Gerhardt

Congregational response

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into this community of faith. Grateful for the gifts you bring, we offer our prayers and support as we journey in faith together.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD...

The Prayer for Illumination

The Psalter Lesson: Psalm 23

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 2:19-25

The Anthem

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Tina Christie, flute; Brendan Shirk, oboe; Mary Ann Casey, harp

My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his Name;
In pastures fresh he makes me feed, beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back, when I forsake his ways,
and leads me for his mercy’s sake, in paths of truth and grace.
When I walk through the shades of death, thy presence is my stay;
One word of thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows, thine oil anoints my head.
The sure provisions of my God attending me all my days;
O may thy house be mine abode and all my work be praise!
There would I find a settled rest while others go and come,
no more a stranger, nor a guest; but like a child at home.

The Gospel Lesson: John 10:1-10

A Moment with the Children

*The Hymn 310

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode
The church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.

I love thy church, O God. Her walls before thee stand,
dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall; for her my prayers ascend,
to her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways:
her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be given
the brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heaven.


The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

The Perfect Church

Kim Clayton

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD...
*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles’ Creed p. 35 in the Hymnal

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by
the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day
he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the
Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the
Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the
resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer p. 35 in the Hymnal

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us
not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Tithes and Offerings Presented

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Doxology, Hymn 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly
host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

GOING FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD’S NAME

*The Hymn 320

The Church of Christ in Every Age

The church of Christ in every age, beset by change but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry for shelter
and for bread to eat, and never live before they die.

Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ’s sacrifice and clothed in Christ’s humanity.

For Christ alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all, without reserve, and spread Christ’s liberating word.

*The Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Trio Sonata in C minor, mv. II Johann Joachim Quantz

The flowers today are given by Lynn and Preston Simms in memory of Aunt Grace Junker Regnault, April
1911 - April 2013.

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Preacher: Kim Clayton
Liturgists: Laura Chewning, Jen Rowe
Choirmasters: Mary Ann and Larry Casey
Organist: Amy Shirk

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