A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING...

The Prelude

Contemplation

David Paxton

The Welcome and Announcements

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

The Introit

Change My Heart, O God

The Call To Worship

Psalm 31 and 1 Peter 2

Rock of refuge, strong fortress,
in you we seek refuge.

We come to him, a living stone;
the cornerstone, chosen and precious.

Let your face shine upon us, in steadfast love.

We are called out of darkness into God’s marvelous light.

The Prayer of Adoration

Holy are you, O God; you hold all of eternity in your hands. We place our lives within your care and keeping, offering all praise and thanksgiving for your powerful works and your tender mercy. May we show forth your glory in our words and deeds until we, with all creation, are gathered into the fullness of time in your great kingdom. Amen.

*The Hymn 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Sing praise to God Who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory.

What God’s almighty power has made God’s gracious mercy keepeth:
by morning glow or evening shade God’s watchful eye ne’er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of God’s might, lo! all is just and murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing,
as with a mother’s tender hand God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory.

Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises,
That all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearyed raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body take your part:
to God all praise and glory.

*The Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we come before you in penitence and confession, knowing we fall short of all you intend us to be. We are caught up in systems of oppression and injustice. We use our power for personal gain, rather than offering sacrificial service. We stand by while persecution and poverty hold sway. We look away from the needs of others—those who are hungry, unhoused, alone, or afraid. Forgive us for our apathy and complacency. Call us once again to attend to you by attending to others. We seek your mercy...silent prayer...Amen.
Assurance of Pardon

Friends, Christ died for us, Christ rose for us.

Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. In Christ, we are a new creation. The past is finished and gone. 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

The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you!

(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshiping at home, please share Christ's peace with someone outside Your home this week.)

Minute for Mission

Members of the Youth Group

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD... 

The Prayer for Illumination

The Psalter Lesson: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 2:2-10

The Anthem

I'll Fly Away

Bramley/Courtney

The Gospel Lesson: John 14:1-14

A Moment with the Children

The Hymn 730

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true, who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew. And one was a doctor and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green: they were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and God's love made them strong; and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake, the whole of their good lives long. And one was a soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce wild beast: and there's not any reason, no, not the least, why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still; the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea; for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.


The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Giving Our Lives to What? Kim Clayton

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD...

Affirmation of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Q and A 1

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

The Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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 731

Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm

Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all around seems bleak: on God’s good promise they rely, so while they live and when they die how forcefully they speak: the strong, who once were weak!

Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, beyond mere mortal sight: who seek the city God has planned, the true, eternal promised land, and steer on toward that light, a beacon ever bright.

Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a sparkling precious stone: they show by what they say and do an inward beauty, warm and true, for God’s concerns they own: God’s love through them is known.

Give thank for saints of ages past and saints alive today: though often by this world despised, their hearts by God are richly prized. Give thanks that we may say we share their pilgrim way.

*The Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Bachiana on an Ancient Chorale

Gordon Young

The flowers today are given by Nancy Wilson in memory of choir members who have passed away.

Today's Worship Leaders:

Preacher: Kim Clayton
Liturgists: Barry Jones, Eric Snader
Choirmasters: Mary Ann and Larry Casey
Organist: Amy Shirk

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