

May 17, 2020 ~ Sixth Sunday Of Easter

PRELUDE: "SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US" ARR. MARK HAYES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMS:

Harv Hopkins-Garriss, 5.19

GATHERING SONG: No. 243 - "Be Not Afraid"

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING SONG OF PRAISE: No. 702 - "Christ Be Beside Me"

Christ be beside me; Christ be before me;
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me; Christ be below me;
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising, Light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me;
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me;
in ears that hear me Christ ever be.

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON):

Holy One, lover of all things, our temptation is to create You in our image; to see everything through the distorted lenses of our fears, obsessions, pride, self-righteousness, and ignorance. We stubbornly protect and preserve our security and safety, the affection and approval of others, total power and control of everything possible. You yearn for Love to live in and through us as Jesus sacrificially lived and still lives among us, within us. Empower us to love as he loved, living from the Spirit center, as love pours into and through us in everything. Hear us as we pray silently about these things...

Time for silent confession...

AMEN.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

SONG OF RESPONSE: No. 251 – “Christ has Arisen, Alleluia” v. 5 and refrain

Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing; he reigns triumphant, heavenly king.
Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.
Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Acts 17:22-31 | John 14:15-21

SERMON: “What’s Love Got to do With It?”

HYMN OF RESPONSE: “Far Side Bank of Jordan”, by The Cox Family (Recorded)

The congregation is invited to sing, dance, or respond via the chat function during this hymn.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

Jesus broadened the definition of neighbor to include all those ordinarily despised, excluded, marginalized, and rejected. His life in behalf of others led to persecution and death. He was too much of a threat to the political and religious institutions. He commands us and equips us to live the same

way in love. He demands that we recognize, welcome and embrace people of all cultures as neighbors; that we cherish all things with love. He shows us to live beyond what is "legal" in serving neighbor, caring passionately without reservation, laboring for justice and peace at all costs. We are obligated to speak Truth in love, to listen with patience and openness, to love enemies, and to accept the risk and pain that love involves, living in solidarity with all people, God's beloved. May it be so!

RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY: - No. 239 - "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!" v. 4

Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

FINAL HYMN: No. 543 - "God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"

God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Bind to myself the Name of Holy,
great cloud of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight,
flashing of lightning, strength of wind,
depth of the sea to soil of planet:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey,
going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: This link will bless you with a benediction sung by people all over the world. Please [click here now](#), and then join us for fellowship on Zoom.

May 17, 2020

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“Christ Be Beside Me”

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“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”

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“Far Side Bank of Jordan”

Alison Krauss and the Cox Family, album *I Know Who Holds Tomorrow*.
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“Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing”

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