

May 24, 2020 ~ Seventh Sunday Of Easter

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMS

Karla Irving and Benjamin Strawderman, 5.28

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

Knowing that there is a vast cloud of witnesses praying for us, we enter into God's presence with rejoicing.

Loving God, open our hearts to sing your praises, hear your word for us, and recommit ourselves to your service as we worship you.

*OPENING SONG OF PRAISE: No. 469 - "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON):

Most loving God, both our judge and our redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves, and we have turned from our neighbors. We have refused to bear

the troubles of others, we have ignored the pain of the world, and have passed by the hungry, the poor and the oppressed.

O God, in your great mercy forgive our sin and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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 1:6-14 | John 17:1-11

SERMON: “To What End?”

HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 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.

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

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the
Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in
death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.**

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. 295 - "Go to the World!"

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"
Alleluia. Alleluia.

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: "Every Morning is Easter Morning" - v. 1 and Coda

Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on!
Ev'ry day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone!
Good-bye guilt, good-bye fear, good riddance! Hello, Lord, Hello, sun!
I am one of the Easter People! My new life has begun!
Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on!
Ev'ry day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone!
Ev'ry morning is Easter morning,
Ev'ry morning is Easter morning,
Ev'ry morning is Easter morning,
From now on!

May 24, 2020

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