

## **May 8, 2022 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter**

PRELUDE: “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” by Doris Akers/arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

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 HYMN: No. 409 – “God is Here!”

God is here! As we your people

meet to offer praise and prayer,

may we find in fuller measure

what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us,

all our varied skills and arts

wait the coming of the Spirit

into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us  
of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font, and pulpit;  
here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome  
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
here, as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us as of old.

Here the servants of the Servant  
seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living  
to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt  
keep us faithful to the gospel;

help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive:  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Enslaved to sin, we cannot see the lives we lead, God of Glory. Each day, and every day, there are those times when we ignore you and your dreams for us. Each week, and every week, we find the time to ridicule others, when we could have affirmed them. Each moment, and every moment, though we do not want to admit it, we seek our own way rather than skipping down your path of joy and obedience.**

**We come asking forgiveness for our foolish lives, Eternal Blessing. Deliver us, and break the chains of sin and death which hold us captive. Open us to that grace you offer, and give us the gift of the Spirit so we may live as people of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.**

*TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION*

**AMEN.**

### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

\*SONG OF RESPONSE: No. 456 – “Listen, God is Calling”

Listen,

**Listen, God is calling,**

**through the Word inviting,**

**offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy. (repeat)**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:18-19, 22-23 and Acts 16:16-34

SERMON: “Following Paul Out of Prison”

HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 821 – “My Life Flows On”

My life flows on in endless song,

above earth’s lamentation.

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn

that hails a new creation.

Refrain:

No storm can shake my inmost calm

while to that Rock I’m clinging.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,

how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing? (Refrain)

What though my joys and comforts die?  
I know my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth. (Refrain)

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing? (Refrain)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from the Confession of 1967*

Leader: In the midst of oppression and tyranny

**All: We celebrate the promise of service and freedom.**

Leader: in the midst of doubt and despair

**All: We celebrate the promise of faith and hope.**

Leader: In the midst of fear and betrayal

**All: We celebrate the promise of joy and loyalty.**

Leader: In the midst of hatred and death

**All: We celebrate the promise of love and life.**

Leader: In the midst of sin and decay

**All: We celebrate the promise of salvation and renewal.**

Leader: In the midst of death on every side

**All: We celebrate the promise of the Living Christ.**

#### CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY: “I’d Rather Have Jesus” by George Beverly Shea/arr. Mark  
Hayes

\*DOXOLOGY: No. 240 – “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks” (refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Give praise to his name.

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#### PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

FINAL HYMN: No. 748 – “Go With Us, Lord”

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way

through this and every coming day,

that in your Spirit strong and true

our lives may be our gift to you.

\*BENEDICTION

\*SUNG BENEDICTION: 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!

**May 8, 2022**

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*#243 - Be Not Afraid*

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*#409 God is Here*

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*Source for Prayer of Confession:*

<https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/search?q=acts+16%3A16-34>

*#456 - Listen, God is Calling*

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*#821 My Life Flows On*

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*#748 Go with Us, Lord*

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