

## **May 16, 2021 ~ Seventh Sunday of Easter**

PRELUDE: In Christ Alone K. Getty & S. Townend/arr. M. Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM:

Harv Hopkins-Garriss, 16th  
Micah Wing, 22nd

GATHERING SONG: No. 14 – “For the Beauty of the Earth”, v – 5 and refrain

For thyself, best gift divine  
to the world so freely given;  
for that great, great love of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heaven:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

TIMES FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

CALL TO WORSHIP:

The heavens declare the glory of God.  
The firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.  
The plants and trees show God’s presence.  
Let us join with creation in praising God.  
Let us worship our creator.

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE: No. 19 - “God of Great and God of Small”

God of great and God of small,  
God of one and God of all,  
God of weak and God of strong,  
God to whom all things belong,  
alleluia, alleluia,  
praise be to your name.

God of land and sky and sea,

God of life and destiny,  
God of never-ending power,  
yet beside me every hour,  
alleluia, alleluia,  
praise be to your name.

God of silence, God of sound,  
God by whom the lost are found,  
God of day and darkest night,  
God whose love turns wrong to right,  
alleluia, alleluia,  
praise be to your name.

God of heaven and God of earth,  
God of death and God of birth,  
God of now and days before,  
God who reigns forevermore,  
alleluia, alleluia,  
praise be to your name.

## ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON):

**Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of the world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste to the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation.**

**We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression.**

**Lord have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

*Time for Silent Confession*

**Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

SONG OF RESPONSE: No. 251 – “Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”, v - 1 and refrain

Christ has arisen, alleluia.  
Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.  
For our redeemer burst from the tomb,  
even from death, dispelling its gloom.  
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 READING: Luke 1:68-79 and Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29

SERMON: “How It Started...How It’s Going”

SONG OF RESPONSE: No. 345 - “In an Age of Twisted Values”

In an age of twisted values  
we have lost the truth we need.  
In sophisticated language  
we have justified our greed.  
By our struggle for possessions  
we have robbed the poor and weak.  
Hear our cry and heal our nation;  
your forgiveness, Lord, we seek.

We have built discrimination  
on our prejudice and fear.  
Hatred swiftly turns to cruelty  
if we hold resentments dear.  
For communities divided  
by the walls of class and race,

hear our cry and heal our nation;  
show us, Lord, your love and grace.

When our families are broken,  
when our homes are full of strife,  
when our children are bewildered,  
when they lose their way in life,  
when we fail to give the aged  
all the care we know they need,  
hear our cry and heal our nation;  
help us show more love, we plead.

We who hear your word so often  
choose so rarely to obey.  
Turn us from our willful wandering;  
give us truth to light our way.  
In the power of your Spirit  
come to cleanse us, make us new;  
hear our cry and heal our nation  
till our nation honors you.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from *A Declaration of Faith*

**The diversity in the early church caused tension and conflict. Yet the Spirit bound them into one body, enriched by their differences.**

**We know that the same Spirit gives us a unity we cannot create or destroy. The Spirit moves among us not to end diversity or compel uniformity, but to overcome divisiveness and bitterness. The Spirit leads us to struggle against the lines of race and class, the ambitions of competing parties, the loyalties to individuals and traditions, that divide us. The Spirit impels us to make the unity of Christians visible to a divided world, and assures us that we shall be one.**

### RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS: "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love", P.  
Sholtes/arr. M. Hayes

\*DOXOLOGY: No. 37 – "Let All Things Now Living", v- 1

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;  
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
by guiding us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:  
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,  
as forward we travel from light into light.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

\*FINAL HYMN: No. 493 - "Now There Is No Male or Female"

Now there is no male or female;  
now there is no free or slave;  
now there is no Jew or Gentile  
in the earth Christ died to save.  
Christ has set us free for freedom:  
we no more sing slavery's creed;  
old submissions cannot claim us;  
Christ has set us free indeed.

Crucified with Christ the Savior,  
baptized in his holy death,  
and as Christ was raised to glory  
we have new life on this earth.  
Power of water and God's naming,  
turning us from dark to light,  
joins us to those who, before us,  
ran the race and fought the fight.

Death has no dominion o'er him,  
so for us death holds no power;  
life's own waters now have marked us,  
born to God this very hour.  
From this moment and forever  
dead to sin, alive in Christ,  
born of water and the Spirit,  
now in Christ we find our life.

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: No. 250 – “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”, v - 1

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.



**May 16, 2021**

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