

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 24, 2020**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *O MY SOUL, BE GLAD AND JOYFUL* - Bohm

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy Power of Life, you promise to never leave us comfortless. Because you are at work through the Advocate, we know your full desire is for us to know abundant life. Thank you for the assurance of your love. As we walk from day to day, reveal yourself to us, even as we work to keep your commandment to love you and one another. Amen

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: *GOD OF THE AGES*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: Here we gather, each from our individual lives. We carry into this place the joys and the worries of our week, the weight of our personal experience, the anxieties of all that the future may hold.

Unison: Here we gather, in prayer and preparation. Here we knit ourselves into a community, here we hold one another in compassion, here we remember that the work you have called us to do, we do not do it alone.

Pastor: Come let us worship.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Unison: God of glory, to you we give all praise, for your grace has surrounded us from before the beginning, and by your grace we know that we are yours. Yet all too often, we think that we alone belong to you, that we alone are your beloved, that we alone know the way to you. Too often, we exclude from grace those who seem different from us, those who use different words to speak of you or live their discipleship differently from us.

Forgive us, when we want Jesus' prayer to be just for us.

Forgive us, when we look for you in the heavens and refuse to see you on Earth.

Forgive us, when we dim your glory by putting limits on your love.

Forgive us, when we do not glorify you by loving you in all that you have created.

God of all, help us to feel the tenderness of your love, your hope for intimacy with us in our daily lives. Help us to live in the holy love of you, poured out in grace and mercy upon one another and all of creation. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LEARNING ABOUT GOD

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Old Testament: Psalm 68:1 – 10, 31 – 35

Gospel: John 17:1 – 11

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC: *WHAT FAITH CAN DO* - Kutless

Darin Jellison

SERMON: *One Step Forward*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL

A CELEBRATION OF FAITH

Pastor: We are a cloth of diverse colors made from many gifts and graces.

Unison: **We are the people flowing forth from Creator God, surprising ourselves with the things which can be done.**

Pastor: We are raw material for rewarding relationships as our lives interweave,

Unison: **contributing one to the other, holding each other firm when one is weak or breaking.**

Pastor: We are each worthy of being respected and cared for

Unison: **essential to the pattern, skilled in our appointed tasks, sources of laughter and sharers of tears.**

Pastor: We commit ourselves to work together,

People: **that one day, this world may be a place where all people live in justice, freedom and peace.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: One: Holy God, glorify us, that we may glorify you! It is not for our own sake, Holy One, that we have chosen to follow in the way of Jesus the Christ. For we know the story; we know that the way of extravagant love is not a way to human status or worldly power.

Unison: **Holy God, glorify us, that we may glorify you!**

Pastor: Following Jesus can grant to freedom from the destructiveness of the world: freedom from consumerism, from the constant pressure to produce, from the gaze that tells us we are never enough no matter how much we have or how often we work out. Following Jesus means living into the promise that we are enough, as we are, for God to love us and call us to be bearers of the kin-dom.

Unison: **Holy God, glorify us, that we may glorify you!**

Pastor: Yet we also acknowledge that following Jesus can make us very uncomfortable, as our freedom levels the playing field, and puts us all on equal footing. We are enough, as we are, and so are those who have long been marginalized, despised, rejected.

Unison: Holy God, glorify us, that we may glorify you!

Pastor: In your mercy, God of love, help us to show forth your love to all of this world. Help us to seek out and lift up your presence and the inbreaking of your kin-dom wherever we might find it in this world. Remind us that our work is not to our own glory, but always to yours, you who created and loved us all with grace and abundance. Help us to look to you, not in clouds and light and heavenly splendor, but among the parched lands in need of rain; among those who are most hurt by the brokenness of this world. God of grace, help us to move the prayers of our hearts into our hands and feet.

Unison: Holy God, glorify us, that we may glorify you! Amen.

Pause for private intercessions

Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass.
We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;

Unison: 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.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

NEWS FROM THE ... "PEWS?"

SPECIAL MUSIC: *BLESSED ASSURANCE*

Brian Jones

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

Unison: Almighty God, we bring gifts of time, talent, and treasure and offer them, that you might be glorified. Bless all that we offer, that it might be for the stewardship and the nurture of your beloved creation, and of your children. By our gifts, may your presence in this world be made known. By our gifts, may we embody your grace and love towards all that you have made. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: *HOW BEAUTIFUL, OUR SPACIOUS SKIES*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *CHORAL IN F MAJOR - Peeters*

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Blessings to all!*