

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
APRIL 18, 2021**

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

**PRELUDE**

**A PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

*God of light and life, we gather as witnesses to your abundant love. We are amazed to discover you anew through our prayers, our praise, and our offerings. God, you encourage us amidst our daily living to become stewards of your love and grace. We ask you to be here with us as we witness your love made real through Jesus the Christ. Amen.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**SENTENCES OF ADORATION**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**Pastor:** God of the morning is with us as we gather with songs of praise.

**People:** **Here we find respite from a busy, frenetic world.**

**Pastor:** We gather in this place finding the peace that God offers.

**People:** **We are more at home within ourselves when we find our rest in Christ.**

**Pastor:** We are witnesses to God's glory, steadfast love, and faithfulness.

**People:** **We see the beauty of creation and sing praises of joy!**

**Pastor:** We abide in God's love and keep God's commandments.

**People:** **Today, we awaken to the call, and show up fully to love one another.**

**Pastor:** Come, let us worship.

**REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE**

**\*CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:**

**God, we are often busy. We busy ourselves with quick responses and neat appearance. We get caught in the flow of hectic pace and too quickly give up opportunities to be still and know you. God, forgive us when we become so busy, we forget to pray. Forgive us when we are so enthralled by devices and gadgets that we forget to look up and take notice. We fail to notice our neighbors. We fail to notice the needs of others. Forgive us when we are so saturated by the news that we shut down completely, we forget that we are called to be your servants, your witnesses here and now. Wake us up to the work of love at hand. Forgive us when we choose apathy over attention, when we become hyper-vigilant in getting what we want that we forget to attend with care to those we meet and greet throughout our days. We neglect to see the humanity in our fellow companions. Forgive us when we falter. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE**

**\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE - *Based on St. Patrick, facing each other:***

**Unison:** Christ's peace be with you,  
Christ's peace within you,  
Christ's peace behind you,  
Christ's peace before you,  
Christ's peace beside you,  
Christ's peace to win you,  
Christ's peace to comfort you and restore you. Christ's peace be with you.

**\*THE GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:**

**Old Testament: Psalm 4**

**New Testament: Acts 3:12 – 19**

**Gospel: Luke 24:36b – 48**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON: *Must You See to Believe?***

**SPECIAL MUSIC: *I WANT THE TRUTH***

*Darin Jellison*

**DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *A CREED OF HOPE***

**I believe in God.**

**The God of all creeds, with all their truths.**

**But, above all, in the God**

**that rises from the dead**

**to become part of life.**

**I believe in the God that accompanies me along**

**every step of my path on this earth,**

**many times walking behind me, watching me and suffering with my mistakes,**

**other times walking beside me, talking to me and teaching me,**

**and other times walking ahead of me, guiding and marking my pace.**

**I believe in the God of flesh and blood, Jesus Christ,**

**the God who lived in my skin and tried on my shoes,**

**the God who walked in my ways, and knows of lights and shadows.**

**The God who ate and starved,**

**who had a home and suffered loneliness,**

who was praised and condemned, kissed and spat on, loved and hated.  
The God who went to parties and funerals,  
the God who laughed and cried.

I believe in the God who is attentive today, who looks at the world  
and sees the hatred that segregates, divides,  
sets people aside, hurts and kills,  
who sees the bullets piercing the flesh,  
and the blood of innocent people flowing on the earth,  
who sees the hand that dips into another's pocket,  
stealing what somebody needs to eat,  
who sees the judge that favors the highest bidder,  
the truth and justice of hypocrites,  
who sees the dirty rivers and the dead fish,  
the toxic substances destroying the earth  
and piercing the sky  
who sees the future mortgaged and  
man's debt growing.

I believe in God who sees all this ...  
and keeps on crying.

But I also believe in God  
who sees a mother giving birth – a life born from pain,  
who sees two children playing - a seed growing,  
who sees a flower blooming out of the debris - a new beginning,  
who sees three crazy women clamoring for justice – an illusion that doesn't die  
who sees the sun rising every morning - a time of opportunities.

I believe in God who sees all this ...  
and laughs,  
because,  
in spite of it all,  
there is hope.

**\*HYMN: SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US**

**252**

*1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need your tender care;  
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your folds prepare:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are.*

*2 We are yours, in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;  
Keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear, hear your children when we pray;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear, hear your children when we pray.*

*3 Let us always seek your favor; let us always do your will;  
Jesus Christ our only Savior, with your love our spirits fill:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Pastor: God, we give thanks for your steadfast love abiding presence, and your creative council and guideposts along the way. You enrich our lives with a world filled with colors, scents, and tastes that delight our senses. We see the goodness that surrounds us and give you thanks and praise. We are witnesses to the world in which we live, and see injustices and colossal failures. Sometimes, we close our eyes and wish we could unsee some of what we've witnessed. Witnessing has its own form of pain, but the true suffering we see is incomprehensible. We pray for those in daily pain, whose bodies and spirits require great effort. We pray for those who are hungry for food, encouragement, relationship. We pray for those whose spirits are diminished. Restore each of these into your attentive care. What some lack, others have in abundance. Guide us to know what is ours to keep and what is ours to share. Help us to loosen our grip on belongings and possessions, and awaken our hearts so we may live with hearts attuned to the rhythms and needs of our community and our world. We live from this moment. We love from this moment. May we live this day as a gift and move into the days ahead with gratitude and generosity.

### *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**

#### **HYMN: I COME TO THE GARDEN**

237

*I I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still on the roses;  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear, The Son of God discloses.*

*Refrain:*

*And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He tells me I am His own,  
And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known.*

*2 He speaks, and the sound of His voice Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;  
And the melody that He gave to me Within my heart is ringing. [Refrain]*

*3 I'd stay in the garden with Him Though the night around me be falling;  
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe, His voice to me is calling. [Refrain]*

**\*THE DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Pastor:** We are here to offer a portion from our abundance – our time, our energy, our resources. May we begin with gratitude, giving thanks to God who is steadfast in love and faithful.

**People:** **God, we give you our thanks for all that we have and all we are. May the tithes, gifts, and offerings we bring be of healing service to our hurting world. May our collective offering be an expression of love and healing through the risen Christ. Amen.**

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

**\*CLOSING HYMN: YOURS IS THE GLORY, RESSURECTED ONE 253**

*1 Yours is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the victory you o'er death have won. Angels clothed in radiance rolled the stone away; conquered is the grave in which your body lay.*

*Refrain:*

*Yours is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.*

*2 See, it is Jesus, Jesus has appeared; do not doubt at all for nothing you will fear. Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing; tell it without ceasing: Death has lost its sting. [Refrain]*

*3 Am I still frightened? One whom I adore, Jesus, lives again, gives peace forevermore. Jesus is my victory, life and strength and Head; Jesus is my glory, nothing shall I dread. [Refrain]*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**