

Third Sunday of Easter

May 1, 2022

Prelude

Welcoming

Lighting the Christ Candle

Eternal Love,
through Christ you have bestowed the light of life upon the world.
Make holy this flame, and grant that our hearts might shine
with the brightness of the risen Christ.
Amen.

Call to Worship

Sing praises to our Lord:

who heals us and makes us whole.

Sing praises to our Lord, faithful children of God:

whose joy rises in our lives each and every day.

Sing praises to our Lord, faithful children of God;

give thanks to God's holy name:

God's Kingdom is near to us;

God's peace resides in our hearts.

(Inspired by Psalm 30)

Opening Hymn: Come, O Fount of Every Blessing (Voices United 559)

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1 Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.

2 Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.

3 O, to grace how great a debt
or daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

Opening Prayer

When Thomas touched the wounds
and set himself free
it was Easter day

When Peter's three "yes's" to Jesus
finished his three denials
it was Easter day

When Mary ready to embalm the dead
ran in fear from the empty tomb
it was Easter day

When the disciples looked from afar
at a breakfast of fish on the beach
it was Easter day

When Emmaus became synonymous with welcome
and the breaking of bread with strangers
it was Easter day

When Paul was blinded by the light
and recognised the voice niggling in his head
it was Easter day

When the hungry are fed at the table
the same table as the rich
it is Easter day

When weapons are beaten to ploughshares
and peace is a word to be shouted
it is Easter day

When the stranger is welcomed in community
and the lonely are restored to relationship
it is Easter day...

Thank you, Holy One, for Easter day, for every day.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Faith Story

Scripture Readings

The New Testament: Acts 9:1-6, 7-20

The Gospel: John 21:1-19

Anthem: Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord

Paul Baloche, 1997, Integrity's. Hosanna! Music.

Reflection

Hymn of the Day: O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

(Voices United 658)

Words: George Matheson 1881

Music: Albert Lister Peace 1884

1 O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

2 O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.

4 O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

Invitation to Offering

As we are blessed by the God of wonder and love, let us share the gifts we have received in blessing to others. Let us commit ourselves to acts of love, as we continue to worship God through the presentation of our offering.

Offering Prayer

We bring our gifts to you, God.

Here is the work of our hands,

and here is the love of our hearts.

Accept them and use them,

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parting Hymn: I Danced in the Morning (Voices United 352)

Words: Sydney Carter 1963

Music: Shaker melody; adapt. and harm. Sydney Carter 1963

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1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

2 I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on. *Refrain*

3 I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. *Refrain*

4 I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. *Refrain*

5 They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he. *Refrain*

Benediction

So now we leave this space of worship
And while so much of the road ahead is uncertain,
the path constantly changing,
we know some things that are as solid and sure
as the ground beneath our feet,
and the sky above our heads.

We know God is love.
We know Christ's light endures.

We know the Holy Spirit this there,
found in the space between all things,
closer to us than our next breath,
binding us to each other,
until we meet we again,

Go in peace.

Postlude

Worship Leaders – Bill Cantelon and Nancy Walker

Music Leader – Lynn Dennis

Vocalists – Peggy Dayton, Lorne Holland,

Jo-Ann Hopkins and Alan Priestley

Welcoming – Stephen Godfrey

Faith Story - Ron Norman

Scripture Reading – John MacLeod

Spirit Kids Program – Leslie Moffat

Technical Support – Sam Boehner and Jayda Perry

Flowers for the service are offered by Bud and Louise Johnston.