

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 21, 2024

God's People Gather

Welcome & Announcements

Centring Music Peace for the Children
by Doreen Lankshear-Smith

Lighting of the Christ Candle

'We are the Church on the hill.' We light this candle to celebrate and proclaim that there is the light of Christ; faith, friendship, and compassion for all who enter in.

Opening Hymn **God Is Here** (Voices United 389)

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1978

Music: William P. Rowlands ca. 1905

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1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 God 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!

Morning Prayer

Anthem Nothing Left To Say *Joseph Martin*

A Time to Wonder (Moira Dennis)

Listening for God's Word

Scripture Readings

Luke 10:39-48; 15:6-11, John 10:16-20

Reflection "Draw the Circle Wide"

Hymn of the Day **Draw the Circle Wide** (More Voices 145)

Words and music: Gordon Light, 1994; arrangement: Michael Bloss, 1998
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Refrain Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.

1. God the still point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost but held forever,
in God's gracious arms. *Refrain*
2. Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call. *Refrain*
3. Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door. *Refrain*

Responding to God's Grace

Invitation to Offering

Choral Response *Please stand in body or spirit.*

Give Thanks

Henry Smith CCLI #20235

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son

And now let the weak say I am strong
Let the poor say I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give Thanks.

Offering Prayer

Pastoral Prayers

Lord, your universe is awesomely vast; our planet is as intricate and delicate as a computer chip. We humans are so small. Yet, even the tiny intimate world which we inhabit--comprised of our family, what we do, and how we survive--often overwhelms us all by itself.

We can hardly steer our own lives, let alone be responsible for so many others, and a whole world. Help our faith to rise above the daily round like a sunrise; to celebrate life's joys, navigate its sorrows, and solve its dilemmas. May this precious church family of faith be to us a known and sure haven, both in Spirit and indeed.

We pray for those who are really alone, with no one to care for them, and unable to care for themselves. May the sharing of our abundance be both salve and substance to their needs. We also pray for those for whom the usual gifts of life and liberty have not flourished, or their mental capacity is overwhelmed. Let there be resources of reconciliation, restoration, and healing, for Christ came to, and cared for, all of these; and the need has not diminished.

Bless the courageous who minister to the victims of starvation and homelessness, especially those who are the hapless and helpless victims of capricious power, civil conflict, or the consequences of natural disasters.

But our compassion begins at home, and we lift up to you those of our own Church family who today are in need and desirous of your care and comfort.

We pray especially for...

The Lord's Prayer

Parting Hymn **Though Ancient Walls**

(Voices United 691, vs. 1, 2, 3 & 5)

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1 Though ancient walls may still stand proud
and racial strife be fact,
though boundaries may be lines of hate,
proclaim God's saving act!

Refrain Walls that divide are broken down;
Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
Christ is our liberty!

2 When vested power stands firm entrenched
and breaks another's back,
when waste and want live side by side,
it's Gospel that we lack. Refrain

3 The truth we seek in varied scheme,
the life that we pursue,
unites us in a common quest
for self and world made new. Refrain

5 This broken world seeks lasting health
and vital unity.
God's people by God's Word renewed,
cast off all slavery! Refrain

Benediction

Postlude

I've Got Peace Like a River

Traditional

Worship Leaders – Rev. Win Stokes

Music Leader – Glenn Parsons

Welcoming – Stephen Godfrey

Greeters – Donna Loglisci and Rosalie Knogler

Spirit Kids – Moira Dennis and Marcia Goodwin

Scripture Reading – Pat MacLeod

Invitation and Offering Prayer – Clare Walker

Technical Support – Louise Johnston and Ron Norman

Fellowship Time – Ethel Wilson Women's Group

Flowers for the service are offered by Carol-Ann and David Staples

in memory of their grandson, Elliot,

who died April 20, 2018, at the age of 16.

Flowers are also offered by Louise and Bud Johnston

to celebrate April birthdays.