

The Worship of God
Second Sunday of Easter – April 7, 2024 – 9:00 Morning Worship
Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!

PRELUDE

“Prelude in D Major”

Charles Wood

WELCOME

GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said,

“Follow me.”

Jesus said,

“Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Jesus said,

“Forgive seventy times seven.”

Jesus said,

“Feed my sheep.”

In response, we say:

“Here’s my heart.

Take and seal it.

Seal it for thy courts above.”²

Let us worship God with all our hearts.

SING

“In Christ There is no East or West”

#317

CALL TO CONFESSION

For the last seven weeks we have been following the life and faith of Peter.

Despite being one of Jesus’ most loyal disciples, Peter still made mistakes.

He was faithful and messy, humble and afraid, loving and cautious.

Friends, we’re a lot like Peter.

Despite our faith, we make mistakes.

Despite our belief, we carry unbelief.

Despite our love, we can cause hurt.

So like Peter, let us return to God in prayer, confessing the truth of our lives.

God’s grace does not stop with that humble yet fearful disciple.

God’s grace reaches all the way to us. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink.

You tell us your truth and we push it away.

We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance.

We profess our faith and deny it three times.

We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence.

Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering along the journey of faith.

Tether us to your heart. Forgive our surprise, our denial, and our limited imagination.

Call us out of the boat once more.

We are eager to return to you.

With humble hearts we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We believe in a God who shows up in our lives—
surprising and catching us off-guard in the best of ways.
We believe in a God who cares for God's people—
a shepherd who longs for her sheep to be fed and tended.
We believe in a God who took on flesh—
a God whose love changed the world as we know it.
We believe that this here-and-now God invites us out of the boat,
calling ordinary people like Peter, like us, into a life of service and community.
And so we give our hearts. We give our whole hearts and nothing less.
Amen.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

I invite you to turn to one another and share a sign of peace:
You're invited to unmute yourselves and exchange peace with one another

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 133

SECOND LESSON

John 20:19-31

...The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

Rev. Susan Phillips

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SING

"I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcoming Table"

#770

GIVING OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!"

#591

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is truly right to give our thanks and praise,

O God of mercy and might.

One of the first things Jesus did after the resurrection was feed his disciples.
The Gospel of John tells us it was a beach fire—bread and fish, cooked over an open flame.
Immediately the disciples knew it was Jesus because Jesus was always feeding people!

Jesus was always telling the left out and the ignored, the hurting and the hungry,
the sick and the hopeful, "I have a seat saved for you."

Friends, that is why we come to this table 2,000 years later.

We come to remember.

We come to be close.

We come to get a taste of the kingdom of God.

So come hungry.

Come seeking.

Come with wandering hearts and fickle faith
and know that Christ has saved a seat for us.

Christ always has a seat saved for us, and nothing can ever change that.

For this is the joyful feast for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

God of second chances, God of grace, meet us here.

Just as you met the disciples at the beach, meet us here.

Meet us now.

Walk toward us and gather us in.

Like the disciples, we have known storms.

This week, people in this room have grieved.

This week, people in this room have felt overwhelmed by the news cycle
and helpless to make a difference.

This week, people in this room have been lonely, stressed, or uncertain.

Thank you for the stars in the sky that remind us of your vastness.

Thank you for stories of hope and forgiveness that inspire us to love.

And thank you for the unending grace that encircles our wandering hearts.

God, we have been back and forth, to and from, on this journey of faith.

For every time that you walked the valley with us,

for every time that you have met us on the mountaintop,

and for every time you have stayed still while we ran toward you, we give you thanks.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION IS SHARED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD

SING

"We Walk by Faith"

817

SENDING

Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place,

may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.

May you look for God in every face.

May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb,
and to speak of your faith.
And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within,
saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid."
You are called.
You are blessed.
In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God.
Go now in peace.
Go trusting that good news.

POSTLUDE

"Caprice"

Louis Nicolas Clerambault