

The Worship of God
Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 5, 2024 – 9:00 Morning Worship
Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!

PRELUDE

“Trumpet Voluntary”

Jeremiah Clarke

WELCOME

GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather together to worship our God.

God gathers us as God’s chosen people.

We abide in God’s love.

We enter worship with glad hearts, eager to love and serve God.

Christ has loved us completely and fully.

We abide in Christ’s love.

We praise the maker of heaven and earth, whose love spreads to all of creation.

Creation is a gift to all, and we are entrusted to care for the good earth.

Creation abides in our love.

We honor the light, the dark, and the hues between.

God makes all beautiful.

Life in its fullness holds great joy and great pain.

We are witnesses to the depth of love that fills our days.

We abide in the joy of love.

OPENING PRAYER

God of many blessings, we give thanks for this day.

We give thanks for all that life holds.

We give you thanks for your steadfast love, for your faithfulness, for your justice.

We gather to worship you, share our joy, and receive your love.

Be with us now and always.

SING

“I Come with Joy”

#515

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we open our hearts before you, and we ask for forgiveness.

We confess we forget how to love ourselves as you love us.

We forget how to love our neighbors as Christ loves us.

We forget to recognize the needs of those around us because

we are too busy with our daily worries.

We fret.

We doubt.

Our thoughts spin, and we become absorbed in ourselves.

We long to fully abide in your love; forgive us when we falter.

God, there are times we abandon our gladness, and instead, we despair.

We hear the stories of abuse, abandonment, the realities of oppression and violence.

God, we become desensitized to the news.

We turn away from the harsh realities and neglect our neighbor.

We long to offer a helping hand, to love and serve the Lord with gladness.

Forgive us when we falter.

God, you have given us the gift of this world.

We have fresh air, greening spaces to grow food,
waterways and oceans that fill the earth with water.

And yet, there are times we waste our resources.

There are times we ignore the needs of the planet,

putting our desires above our call to care for creation.

Help us retune our hearts to the rhythms and needs of creation.

Forgive us when we falter.

God, you have created the light, the dark, and the hues between.

You make all beautiful.

And yet, we often ascribe greater meaning to the light, the darkness, or the hues between.

We judge the beauty and worth of others.

We lose sight of the light of Christ in each.

We forget the dark is the space where life begins.

We judge the skin tones of others and ascribe worth not by your means, but our own.

We are inconsistent in our approach to how we honor who you have created.

Forgive us when we falter.

(silent personal prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our God of steadfast love is faithful and just.

God hears our confession and offers forgiveness.

God knows your hearts and offers you peace.

Receive God's peace and abide in Christ's love.

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

John 15:9-17

SECOND LESSON

Acts 10:44-48

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

REFLECTION

Rev. Susan Phillips

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SING

"Spirit of the Living God"

#288

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.

Christ of humble beginnings, we gather at the table today remembering how to rejoice.

Remind us of your gathering presence as you invite us to the table to feast.

We hold the bread of life and cup of salvation and remember to take and eat.

Help us to take and eat your gift of love become salvation.

We carry our worship within, returning to our daily lives with full hearts and eager hands.

Help us to be your hands and feet in this hungry, hurting world.

Amen.

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

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

#465

SENDING

As we go, let us go knowing that God loves us.

Go now to love and serve the Lord, astounded beyond measure.

May Christ's light guide your path.

May peace grace each step.

May hope lead the way.

May you always find love near.

Amen?

Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Trumpet Tune"

Henry Purcell