

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
The Fifth Sunday of Easter: A Service for Worship at Home
 May 10, 2020

Prelude

Take a moment to take a breath, and quiet your heart and mind.

Greeting

Alleluia! Jesus Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!

Opening Prayer

O God, form us into your image. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise; that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, you reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Adapted from Book of Common Worship, © 1993 Westminster John Knox Press

Call to Worship

Psalm 31:1-5

In you, O LORD, we seek refuge; in your righteousness, deliver us.

Be a rock of refuge for us, a strong fortress to save us.

You are indeed our rock and fortress; for your name's sake lead and guide us.

**Into your hand we commit ourselves; you have redeemed us, O LORD,
 our faithful God.**

Hymn

Joy Comes With the Dawn

Confession

1 Peter 2:4-5

"Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

Lord, we confess this morning that we are a troubled and unsatisfied people. Though you have given us your very Self, all too often we find ourselves turning to that which will not satisfy. It is not that we have followed you and found your way untrue, but rather we have seen that your way is difficult, and we have left it untried.

Forgive us Lord. Renew our eyes that we may see you; renew our ears that we may hear your call to us; renew our hearts, that we may respond in faith and courage. That we may have a renewed love for you, and for our neighbor.

(silent confession)

Assurance and Peace

"For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'"

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

Throughout this week, continue to find ways to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children's Message

Downloadable materials for children (and the young at heart!) can be found on the church website (www.CalvinChurchRI.org) with the worship materials.

Scripture	John 14:1-14
Sermon	<i>It's Who You Know</i>
Hymn	<i>I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art</i>

Offering

Please prayerfully consider the time, talents, or gifts you have received, and how you can give them back to God in love and service to others.

We understand that these are uncertain and difficult times. But that is all the more reason that the work of the church continues. Please prayerfully continue to give your gifts to this ministry. You can take just a moment to give online through our website, or prepare a check to be mailed.

Prayer of Dedication and the Prayers of the People

Lord, out of love you prepare a place for us, not only in the future but even here and even now. In our trust that you are the way, the truth, and the life, we offer our gifts, indeed our very selves back to you. Take what we have, bless and use them, that they may be used to ease troubled hearts and show you to be the One in whom we have seen the Father.

Lord in these unsure and uncertain times, you alone are sure and certain. Though we continue to live and worship in separate and scattered places, though we long to be together, we trust that in you, we are right where we need to be.

Lord, in the increasing numbers of the sick, the mounting deaths, the growing numbers of jobs lost and the turmoil of the economy, we are troubled.

In our inability to be close to the ones we love when they need us the most, in the lost hopes and missed opportunities of our circumstances, in the lack of equality we see, we are troubled.

Lord, lead us in your way. Heal the sick, draw in the outcast, comfort the mourning, visit the lonely, bring justice to the oppressed, protect the vulnerable, bring repentance to the guilty. And Lord, teach us to follow along your way.

And now, Lord, hear us as we lift up those whose names are known to us: Linda, Marsha and her mother and father, the Pak family, Steven's father Ron, Linda, Jackie and Chuck, Elaine; Marilyn, Miriam, Fran and all those at the Chapel Hill, Highlands, Waterman Lake, and Atria assisted living communities.

Finally, Lord, on this mother's day we celebrate with those for whom this is a day of celebration. Remembering and celebrating with joy and thanksgiving those who have given us life and nurtured us. And those who continue to nurture, and speak words of truth and love into our lives, showing us the way. Lord, may we be thankful, and may we celebrate with joy, not just on this day, but each and every day, even as we recognize circumstance will change this year's celebrations.

But, Lord, we also know that for many of us days like today are bittersweet, or even painful.

And so now in this time we also remember and stand with those who live with and in estranged or broken relationships...We lift up all those who have lost their mothers...and those who have lost children...children they have known

and loved...and those who have lost children they have loved yet never got to know...and those for whom today is a reminder of what has not been given, of hopes left lingering, unmet.

We acknowledge that life is not neat and tidy, but is often messy and confusing, a mix of joy and sadness, hope and doubt, fear and love.

And yet, You are not absent from any of it, even the messiness, and you, Lord are yet at work in the midst of all of it, the tears of joy and the tears of sadness, the confident faith and the confused doubts.

And so this morning we claim the wide and encompassing witness of women and mothers throughout the Bible, throughout your Word for us, and we lift up: Those who, like Rachel, have counted year after year, watching with painful longing as others become pregnant. *(Genesis 29:31-30:1)*

We lift up those who, like Hagar, have been left to raise a child alone. *(Genesis 16:1-6; 21:1-21)*

We lift up those who, like Mary, have a pregnancy that becomes the topic of gossip. *(Matthew 1:18-19)*

We lift up those who, like Naomi, have tasted the bitterness of a child's death. *(Ruth 1:1-5)*

We lift up those who, like Hannah, have been separated from their children. *(1 Samuel 1:21-2:11)*

We lift up those who, like Sarah, have rejoiced, celebrated, and laughed with joy at the birth of a child. *(Genesis 21:1-7)*

We lift up those who, like the mother of Moses, have given up a child because they are unable to raise them. *(Exodus 1:1-2:4)*

We lift up those who, like Pharaoh's daughter, have loved and nurtured children to whom they did not give birth. *(Exodus 2:5-10)*

We lift up now the prayers that linger in each of our hearts...

[silent prayers]

Lord, we courageously ask that we may follow you so closely that others will come to know you and trust you. May you work through us to ease troubled hearts and show that you are indeed the way, the truth and the life. We rest in

the fact that we know you, because you know us...so hear us now as we are bold to pray together the prayer that you taught us:

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 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.

Hymn

In Christ Alone

Benediction

Sisters and Brothers – beloved of God – do not let your hearts be troubled. Have confidence in God, trust in Jesus. For in the household of God, there are many places of rest, prepared in advance, by Jesus, whom you know. Know that he is with you all along the way, for he is the way...

May the love of God the Father, The grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, One God, be with you, now and forever. Amen.