

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Worship Service – May 9, 2021

Revised Common Lectionary Readings
 Sixth Sunday of Easter
 Year B

Acts 10:44-48
 Psalm 98
 1 John 5:1-6
 John 15:9-17

Prelude

Welcome and Opening Prayer

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

Loving God, as we worship together this morning, may our hearts grow in love for you and love for one another, and may grow in commitment to make of ourselves neighbors to those near and far. Fill us and all our places with your Spirit; in this, may we learn to abide in your love. Amen.

Call to Worship

Psalm 98:1-3

O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
 The LORD has made known his victory;
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness.
All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Hymn

In Christ Alone

Confession*

Psalm 98:7-9

“Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.”

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Indeed, because we have not loved you with our whole heart, we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

**We have failed to be a people fully obedient to these commands;
 we have not done your will,
 we have broken your law,
 we have rebelled against your love.**

Gracious God, command what you will, and give what you command. Give us the love that you require of us. Fill our whole heart with a love for you that becomes a whole-hearted love for our neighbor. By your Spirit, strengthen and embolden us to love as we should. *(personal confession)*

**adapted from Rev. Jerry Andrews,
 Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 6th Sunday of Easter, 2021*

Assurance and Peace

John 15:12-15

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends...”

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture[1 John 5:1-6](#)**Sermon***Believe, or Believe In...That Is the Question***Hymn***Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring***Offering* and Doxology**

John 15:12-16

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you...You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends...And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last...”

Let us show our friendship with Christ and our love for our neighbors by giving generously so that we may bear the lasting fruit of Christ’s love.

Please prayerfully consider the time, talents, or gifts you have received, and how they can be given in love and friendship, that we might bear fruit that will last.

**adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion,
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Prayer of Dedication*

Without your love, Lord, we are nothing. Without your giving, we have received nothing. Without your gifts, we have nothing. Receive back these gifts of our love, that you may be always all to us. May our love grow even now as we give.

**adapted from Rev. Jerry Andrews, Presbyterian Outlook*

Announcements**Prayers of the People**

**portions of this prayer were inspired in part from a variety of Mothers’ Day prayers*

God of love, help our hearts sing for joy, for you are coming to judge the world with righteousness and justice, equity between nations and between people.

And so we pray.

We pray this day for the continued circumstances of this pandemic. Keep us mindful of our duties to one another. We pray especially for India; we pray that our vision, our concern, our love, would not be limited to what is near to us, but would be guided by what and who is near to you.

We pray for places – material places, emotional places, spiritual places – of hunger, of poverty, of injury, of loneliness. We pray that all may be filled, that all may know your

abundance, that all may be healed, that all may now your abiding presence. Help us to believe, to trust in these promises of you, and to live out this trust.

We lift up the names of those known to us...

Gail, Barbara, Judy, Bob, Anne, and Maria.

And we remember to you Miriam, Dot, Val, Chuck, Elaine, and all at the Oak Hill, Chapel Hill, Waterman Lake, Madonna Manor, the Highlands, and Atria assisted living facilities.

And all whose names we carry in our hearts and in our minds..

And we offer a moment for those who are unknown to us, but known fully to you...

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 and gratitude, not just on this day, but each and every day.

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. Your love abides.

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)*

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 trouble hearts and show that you are indeed the way, the truth and the life; that you are love itself. May we rest in this truth, may we rise in this truth, may we live in and live out this truth...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

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound
Glory to God Hymnal, #766

Charge and Benediction

Let us walk the paths of our lives, believing in – trusting in – Jesus Christ: who he is for us, and in us; who he is for the world, and in the world.

And in this, may we know we abide in the love of God the Father, the grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, now and forevermore.