



Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working

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THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter

You will find the liturgy of the service laid out as it would normally be when we gather for worship in the sanctuary. You can choose to read it all together, or use the call and response format as printed. If you are going to follow along with the call and response it may help to select a liturgist for one or all the sections to lead you. This is good for any age person! If there are difficult words you can help each other out!

Prelude

Sandra Eithun

“Jubilation”

Sanctuary Handbells (2010)

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol God, all you peoples!

**For great is God’s steadfast love toward us
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures
forever.**

Praise the Lord! Let us worship God.

Prayer of Invocation

Almighty God, in Christ you have shown us the way, revealed to us your truth, and offered to us everlasting life. Keep our eyes upon Jesus, that we may see your path more clearly, know your truth more fully, and receive your life more abundantly; through Christ who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in eternal glory. Amen.

"How Firm a Foundation"

463

How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

Call to Confession

Confident in God's promise that all who believe in Christ are free from shame, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, your word offers freedom from sin, but we confess that we have not obeyed your word. We have harbored malice toward our enemies; we have been deceitful in our relationships; we have been insincere in our commitments; through gossip we have slandered our friends. Forgive us our sins and lead us to genuine repentance. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

According to 1 Peter 2:10: Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people. Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Prayer of Illumination

God, as we listen to your holy Word, open our hearts to the power of your Spirit, call us out of darkness, and lead us into your marvelous light. Amen.

First Reading

Psalm 139

The word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God

Music Ministry

“I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes”

Sanctuary Choir (2000)

Barbara Witkowski, Guest Soprano

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved,
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, He that keepeth Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper; thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil,
He shall preserve thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out
and thy coming in from this time forth,
and even forever more. Amen.

Second Reading

Proverbs 3:13-18

The word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God

Sermon

The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

444 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

Capo 5: (Am) (Dm) (Am) (C) (Em) (Am)
 Dm Gm Dm F Am Dm

1 "For - give our sins as we for - give,"you taught us, Lord, to pray,
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with-in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease.

(F) (Em) (C) (Dm) (Em) (Am)
 B \flat Am F Gm Am Dm

but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 what triv - ial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!
 Then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Few petitions of the Lord's Prayer are as difficult to pray as this one, and we would not dare to pray it if we had to depend on ourselves rather than the example of forgiveness we are given in Jesus Christ. The shape note tune sets these words with appropriate sparseness.

TEXT: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1969, 1983, alt.
 MUSIC: Supplement to *Kentucky Harmony*, 1820; harm. Margaret W. Mealy, 1985
 Text © 1969, 1983 Rosamond E. Herklots
 Music Harm. © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

DETROIT
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Mother's Day Litany

Mothering Creator, on this day we give thanks for the way you birthed us into life, created for us a safe place to gather, and nurtured us like a mother hen. Today we recognize all women in our lives. We recognize the shared stories and experiences of all life, honoring each person's individual journey. To those who gave birth this year to their first child-

we celebrate with you

To those who lost a child this year –

we mourn with you

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains –

we appreciate you

To those who experienced loss this year through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away –

we mourn with you.

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment –

we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms –

we need you.

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children –

we celebrate with you.

To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children –

we sit with you.

To those who lost their mothers this year –

we grieve with you.

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother –

we acknowledge your experience.

To those who have not given birth but care for and love the children in their lives as though they were their own –

We thank you.

To those who lived through driving tests,
Medical tests, and the overall testing of
motherhood –

we are better for having you in our midst

To those who will have emptier nests in the up
coming year –

we grieve and rejoice with you

And to those who are pregnant with new life,
both expected and surprising –

we anticipate with you. This Mother's Day,

**We walk with you. Mothering is not for the
faint of heart and we have real warriors in our
midst. We remember you and honor you.**

Amen.

Children's Anthem

Kenneth T. Kosche

"Keep Me as the Apple of Your Eye"

Carol Choir (2009)

*Keep me as the apple of Your eye;
hide me in the shadow of Your wings.
Listen, Lord, oh, listen to my prayer,
and keep me as the apple of Your eye.*

Protect and guard me through the night,
slumbering safely in Your sight,
and when night turns into day, Lord,
guide me all along my way.

Call to Stewardship

As people of God, let us offer ourselves and the
fruit of our labor for God's work in the world.

Offertory

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

“Meditation on Canonbury”

Congregational Response Hymn 606 Old Hundredth

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, receive the gifts we bring in gratitude for your astounding goodness. Make our lives to be an acceptable offering in union with our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.

Hymn 645

Mit Freuden Zart

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

The regal divine imagery here will not be new to most singers, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.

TEXT: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675; trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864, alt. MIT FREUDEN ZART
 MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesang, 1566; harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906, alt.

Benediction

The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you
 And also with you

Postlude

arr. Anna Laura Page

“Rejoice, the Lord is King!”

Today's Liturgy has been adapted from: Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1.
 Mother's Day Litany Adapted from Amy Young: messymiddle.wordpress.com