



# Grace First

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working*

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# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 17, 2020

Sixth 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

arr. Gordon Young

“Amazing Grace”

## Call to Worship

Today is a new day!

**New life is rising among us.**

Today we are challenged to live fully in God’s love!

**We come with the past behind us, and the future open.**

Today is a new day!

**We come to celebrate the new life Christ brings.**

## Prayer of Invocation

Mighty God, in your wisdom and power you come to us even beyond the boundaries of earthly life to places of love and joy. You comfort us in your spirit and abide in us to bring peace. Your truth calls us to righteousness and new faithfulness as we sing your praise and know your presence. Strengthen us in your love, that in this coming week we can live in the fullness of your hope. In the name of the risen Lord we pray. Amen.

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

14 For the Beauty of the Earth

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

*Refrain*

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

Text: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt.  
MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. The English Hymnal, 1906

DIX

## **Call to Confession**

Sometimes the distance between who we are and who we desire to be is so great, we feel as if we are in a far away country. We feel alone, isolated, and separate from our God. Let us come to God and confess our shortcomings and be renewed in one voice and then in our own time of silent confession.

## **Prayer of Confession**

God, how do we come into your presence, when we know that we have been less than what you had hoped we would be? How can we possibly ask anything from you when we struggle to do the least in your name? God, we want to honor you, to believe all that we have learned about who you are, yet doubts continue to plague us. Forgive us, as we seek to find truth as we reach out to touch you.

## **Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Our confession is an acknowledgment of our humanness, our need for God's grace. God has promised that we can be forgiven for our weaknesses, our insensitivities, and our lack of faith. Accept this assurance with humility and the knowledge that in Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

## **Prayer of Illumination**

Prepare us God, to hear your word through the scriptures today. Confront us with your claims on our lives. Clarify the choices we must make and help us to respond to the One who came as the bread of life so we may know life at its fullest. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**First Reading**

Acts 17:22-31

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

**Music Ministry**

“Sing Alleluia Forth”  
Sanctuary Choir, 2009

Sing Alleluia forth in duteous praise,  
ye citizens of heaven,  
O sweetly raise an endless Alleluia!

Ye powers who stand before the eternal light,  
let all your choirs reecho to the height  
an endless Alleluia!

Then let the Holy city raise the strain,  
and with glad songs resounding wake again  
an endless Alleluia!

Almighty Christ, to Thee our voices sing  
glory forevermore, to thee we bring,  
an endless Alleluia! Amen!

**Second Reading**

John 14:15-21

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

**Sermon**

The Rev. David A. Slyter

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine”

# 839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

1 Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a  
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of  
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest; I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion,  
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing,  
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blest, watch - ing and wait - ing,

pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.  
 bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.  
 look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

## Chorus

This is my sto - ry; this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior

all the day long; this is my sto - ry; this is my

song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Sometimes this prolific 19th-century hymnwriter wrote texts for others to set, and sometimes she created words for tunes others had composed. This text was of the second kind, and the resulting close fit between words and music has made them both popular and inseparable.

TEXT: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1873; Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee, 2001  
 MUSIC: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873  
 Korean Trans. © 2001 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

ASSURANCE  
 9.10.9.9 with refrain

## Affirmation of Faith

## The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

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 us 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.

## **Call to Stewardship**

God has freely given us his Son that we may know of his love. We are invited to freely give of ourselves so that those who know us will know of God's love within us.

## **Offertory**

arr. Robert J. Powell

"We Walk by Faith"

## **Congregational Response** Hymn 606 Old Hundredth Doxology

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**

May these gifts bear Christ in many ways to a world that does not know you. Work through these offerings to multiply the miracle of Easter to all places of your knowing, even our own hearts. Givers and gifts be blessed as your Spirit of love is spread through all the world. Amen.

## "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

## 32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

1 I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,  
 2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.  
 3 There's not a plant or flower be - low but makes thy glo - ries known.

that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the loft - y  
 God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them  
 And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy

skies. I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day.  
 good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,  
 throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,

The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.  
 if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!  
 and ev - ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

With minimal revision this text brings together six of the eight four-line stanzas in an 18th-century hymn written for children and originally headed "Praise for Creation and Providence." The anonymous German tune provides a fitting sense of breadth and wonder.

## **Benediction**

Easter is not simply an event of history that happened to those people a long time ago. Easter is what happens in us as we are transformed in the presence of the Spirit of God. Easter is not a farewell; rather it is a “hello” to the dawn of truth for those who believe. Go in hope, go in the company of the risen Lord. Amen.

## **The Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you**

## **Postlude**

arr. Anna Laura Page

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”