



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

6th Sunday of Easter | May 9, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

(All speak words in **boldface**.)

Easter people, have you heard the news?

Christ is here! In our hearts, in our lives, and in our midst.

Christ is our companion on this road of faith.

We come, ready for Christ to open our eyes.

Alleluia! Let us worship God.

HYMN

Christ, the Way We're Called to Follow

LAUDS ANIMA

Christ, the Way we're called to follow,

Christ, the Way that leads to God,

when some other path attracts us,

keep us on the road you trod.

Jesus, Master, Friend and Savior, be our Way, our Life, our Truth!

Christ, the Truth beyond all knowledge,

Christ, the Truth that sets us free,

when confusion clouds our vision,

touch our eyes that we may see.

Jesus, Master, Friend, and Savior, be our Truth, our Way, our Life!

TEXT: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 2001 MUSIC: John Goss, 1800-1880 PD Text © 2006, GIA Publications, Inc.

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PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

Holy Companion,

the resurrection story of Easter takes our breath away:

life overcomes death, love shatters fear,

and peace prevails against empire.

We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!

True Companion,
we know when your spirit is at work within and between us,
for you bring food to the hungry,
hope to the despairing,
and support to the challenged.

We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!

Kind Companion—
when we forget we bear the mark of your grace
and act as if you have no claim on our lives, **forgive us;**
when you call us to the risky work of justice and peace,
but we default to what is comfortable and safe, **forgive us;**
when you call us to ministries of generosity and compassion,
but we make little room in our lives for gestures of mercy, **forgive us.**

Buen Compañador—
open our eyes that we may recognize you in our conversations;
open our ears that we may follow the sound of your voice;
and make our hearts burn with courage that we may do good
as we serve and shepherd and speak;
while walking side-by-side—with our neighbors, for our neighbors, for you;
Alleluia! Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Believe the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

TEXT: stanza 4. Charles Wesley, 1740, PD MUSIC: Lyra Davidica, 1708; adapt. from The Compleat Psalmodist, 1749 PD

SCRIPTURE READING Galatians 1:13-17, 2:11-21

MUSIC *Jesus Christ Has Told Me So* Herbert F. Brokering
Sue Anderson, soprano; Wayne Tillman, tenor

***He can turn a life around, seek a sheep till it is found.
When it seems a life is done, he will wake it with the sun.*** Refrain

SERMON "Thanks Be to God" Rev. Laura Viau

PRACTICES OF LOVE: LAY IT DOWN

(You'll need a pencil and an index card. When finished, you can bring your card up front and place it in the basket, remembering safe distancing, or signal for an usher to collect it.)

Let us lay down:

those things which divide
and dull our relationships together
that cause conflict of little worth.

Let us lay down:

those issues that are more about us
than about the love of God.

Let us lay down:

the words we have said
that have hurt those we spoke them to.

Let us lay down:

the grudges we cling onto
from ages past.

Let us lay down:

the fear of straying through faith
into areas in which we have no experience.

Let us lay down:

our fear of a future
that is not comfortable and familiar.

Let us lay down:

the anger we have
of those who wish to remain with what is familiar

and with those who wish to explore further.

Let us lay down:

that which is unloving

and does not bring life.

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

It is your truth alone, loving God, which can change hearts, your healing power which can transform troubled souls, your Spirit which can move mountains of despair. So we pray today, Lord, for change in places where tradition has a stranglehold on vision, where fear prevents the hope of a better future, where injustice is ingrained and the same voices shout the loudest.

Lord, let there be change.

We pray for transformation in hearts left cold by hurt, in lives destroyed by loneliness, in bodies held to ransom by pain and souls crying out for relief.

Lord, let there be transformation.

We pray for healing for those troubled in body, mind and spirit. May they know your presence in the comfort of others and in your timeless promises made real in Christ Jesus, our Savior.

Lord, let there be healing.

We pray for movement, Lord, in our churches that the past may not dictate the present or the possible, in our communities that ingrained opinions may be challenged and shaken, in our world that reconciliation and peace may become an achievable reality and not just a dream for the hopeful.

Lord, let there be movement.

And we pray, Lord, for ourselves, here in this congregation, that we may together offer help, hope and encouragement to one another and to those in need. And may you continue to meet us, Lord, along the pathways of life that our faith may be strengthened making us worthy workers for the kingdom. And now we join our voices together praying the prayer your Son taught us to pray, saying:

from Spill the Beans, Easter 4

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.

HYMN

Lord, You Have Come to the Seashore

(See p. 5)

BENEDICTION AND CHARGE

And so we go, in the company of believers
of every time and place
loved into being by God
inspired by the the Spirit
and commissioned by Jesus

From where we are now, to where you need us

God, we hear you call us

From the familiarity of what we know,
to the wonder of what will be revealed,

Spirit, we trust you to guide us

Because you promise to work through us - even us! -
to transform the fabric of the world

**Jesus, we know you will walk with us,
accompanying us, today and always. Amen.**

CLOSING MUSIC

Lord, You Have Come to the Seashore



Lord, _____ you have come to the sea - shore, _____
Lord, _____ see my goods, my pos - ses - sions. _____
Lord, _____ take my hands and dir - ect them. _____
Lord, _____ as I drift on the wa - ters, _____



Nei - ther search - ing _____ for the rich nor the wise _____
In my boat you _____ find no pow - er no wealth _____
Help me spend my - self _____ for _____ the lost, _____
Be the rest - ing place _____ of my rest - less heart, _____



De - sir - ing on - ly _____ that I should fol - low. _____
Will you ac - cept, then, _____ my nets and la - bor. _____
Re - turn - ing love for _____ the love you gave me. _____
My life's com - pan - ion, _____ my friend and re - fuge. _____

Refrain



O Lord, _____ with Your eyes set up - on me, _____



Gent - ly smil - ing, _____ you have spo - ken my name. _____



All I longed for, _____ I have found by the wa - ter,



At Your side, _____ I will seek oth - er shores.



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Joyce Winkler, Qualified Ruling Elder; **Crystal Braxton**, Nursery;

Hery Ramambasoa, Regional Liaison for Southeast Asia and the Pacific

PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL. 😊

