

Third Sunday of Easter

April 26th, 2020

Greeting

Call to Worship

Pete Wills

Sometimes, the miraculous work of God's love is right in front of us, but we cannot see it. Sometimes the hope of healing and peace we are longing for is in our midst. There are times when God has already acted, even before we have prayed. It is when we pause and open our hearts to God in worship, we can see what God has done. Let us come together and worship God.

Glory to God Hymnal #762 "When the Poor Ones"

When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers,
when the thirsty water give unto us all,
when the crippled in their weakness strengthen others,

{Refrain}

Then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,
when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,
when we love though hate at times seems all around us,
{Refrain}

When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
when our lips can speak no words other than true,
when we know that love for simple things is better,
{Refrain}

When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
when we learn how to make peace instead of war,
when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor,
{Refrain}

TEXT: José Antonio Olivar and Miguel Manzano, 1970; trans. George Lockwood, 1980, alt.;
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Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, You are so patient with us. You brought us through Easter when we rejoiced at the news of the resurrection of your Son our Savior. You were with us in the upper room when we remained hidden out of our fears, sharing with Thomas our doubts and anxieties. Now You come to us on the road. You come to us in our everyday lives, moving out of the

places we expect to find You. But we aren't always ready for You and don't always see You or feel Your presence. We let so many things crowd in on our lives and these intrusions blot out our awareness of Your presence. Forgive our blindness and our stubbornness. Help us keep our hearts open to You, to see and tell the good things You have done in our lives. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Please take a moment for your own silent confession.

Assurance of Hope and Forgiveness

Rejoice in the love that God has for you. Jesus endured the cross so that you could be free of what holds you back from wholeness and joy. Christ raised from the dead as a sign of God's justice and vindication of his life. Find peace in the knowledge that you are loved and forgiven, valued and blessed. Through Christ Jesus' death and resurrection, you are forgiven.

The Presbyterian Hymnal #579 "Gloria Patri"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

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Glory Be to the Father

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text. Composer: Henry W. Greatorex (1851)

Scripture Readings: 1 Peter 1:17-23

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Luke 24:13-35

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' ¹⁹ He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified

him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' ²⁵Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Message: "Surprised by God's Grace"

Pastor Jack Harrison

Piano Solo: *Novole Bianche* by Ludovico Einaudi

played by Emily A.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

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.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sending Hymn, Glory be to God Hymnal #821 "My Life Flows On"

My life flows on in endless song,

above earth's lamentation.

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn

that hails a new creation.

Refrain:

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. [Refrain]

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

Benediction