

**SPECIAL MUSIC***Sing a New Exultant Song* (Rotermund)**Chancel Choir**
 May 5, 2024  
 Sixth Sunday of Easter
**OFFERING INVITATION**

Liturgist: The Holy Spirit's gifts have been poured into our hearts and our lives. In response, let us share these blessings for the good of ALL God's people, dedicating them with a song and prayer.

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

**OFFERING RESPONSE**      *Accept, O God, the Gifts*      **Blue Chalice Hymnal, #379**

*(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**All people:** *O God, our hearts sing with thanksgiving for the many gifts and graces you bring to our lives. We give you thanks for your steadfast love and faithful Spirit. Receive this offering and the gift of our whole selves, that we might give as we have received and love as we have been loved. Amen.*

**HYMN***They'll Know We are Christians***Blue Chalice Hymnal, #494****BENEDICTION**

Preacher: People of God, abide in God's love. May God's love and faithfulness flow through you, even to the ends of the earth.

**All people:** *Amen.***CANDLE EXTINGUISHING****Acolyte****POSTLUDE****Mr. Kevin Crone****PREWORSHIP MUSIC****Mr. Kevin Crone****GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS****CANDLELIGHTING****Acolyte****PRELUDE**Centering Thought

*The Holy One's steadfast love and faithfulness are shared with all. We are called to the greatest commandment: to abide in God's love and to love one another as God has loved us—not as servants, but as friends.*

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Preacher: Sing to God a new song,  
for God has done wondrous things.

**Congregation:** **The Holy One's might is not found in destruction, but in steadfast love and constant faithfulness.**

Preacher: These gifts are not for us alone,  
they are for one and all.

**Congregation:** **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Break forth into songs of praise.**

**All people:** *Let all creation praise the Lord.*

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**All people:** *Gracious God, in Jesus, you have loved us deeply. You have shown us what love looks like, in his life and ministry, and in scripture. Help us, as we hear the scriptures read and your Word proclaimed, to know your love and receive your love, so that we might be more able to give your love to others in the name of Christ. Amen.*

**HYMN***Spirit of the Living God***Blue Hymnal, #259****CALL TO CONFESSION**

Preacher: The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All people:** *Easter is such a wonderful season, Lord. Hope springs anew in our hearts. As the earth is being refreshed by the warmth of spring, so we have been refreshed and made new by the resurrection of our Lord*

References

- All liturgy (except the Assurance of Forgiveness, Prayer of Confession and Prayer of Dedication) from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024. Copyright © 2023 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.
- Prayer of Invocation and Assurance of Forgiveness written by Nancy C. Townley for Ministry Matters: Worship Connection: May 5, 2024. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2749/worship-connection-may-5-2024>
- All Scripture readings are taken from the Common English Bible (CEB), copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

*Jesus Christ. And we want to stay in this euphoria forever. But you have called us to go into all the world, to those who need to hear of your love and feel your caring presence. In his words of hope, Jesus prepared his disciples to be witnesses. We have heard these words before, but far too often, we have turned our backs to this message. We don't quite believe that we are capable of actually living our whole lives in your love. So we act in ways that are often neglectful and hurtful of others. We take more time pampering ourselves than we do helping other people. It is easier to justify our selfish desires than it is to witness to your transforming love. Stop us in our tracks, O Lord. Turn us around. Help us to face our weakness and your forgiving grace. Heal us of our sins and place us again on your path of peace. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.*

#### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Preacher: The commandment that we have from Christ Jesus is that we love one another, treating each other as beloved brothers and sisters. Abide in God's eternal love. Let its power and joy penetrate your hearts and spirits, preparing you for new growth in the Spirit.

*All people: Amen.*

#### **PRAISE HYMN**

*Halle, Halle, Halle*

**Blue Hymnal, #41**

#### **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Pastor: As God has loved us, so shall we love each other. As Christ has called us friends, so we have become friends to one another. Let us abide in God's love together now, sharing friendship and peace with another.

*(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)*

#### **JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"**

#### **HYMN**

*In Christ There is No East or West*

**Blue Hymnal, #687**

#### **FIRST READING**

**Acts 10:44-48**

#### **EPISTLE READING**

**1 John 5:1-6**

#### **GOSPEL READING**

**John 15:9-17**

#### **SERMON**

**Rev. Dr Christopher Anderson**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Preacher: God of resurrection, of new life, of new beginnings, we are amazed by your power, by your love, by the grace you extend to us and all the world. In this Eastertide, we bow before you in prayer, lifting our petitions for those who suffer and struggle, and searching for the strength, guidance and hope we need to serve as your faithful disciples.

*All people: In your mercy, Risen Savior, hear our prayers.*

Preacher: O God, we fear for ourselves, for our neighbors, and for our world. Evil has gained traction, convincing many that violence and war, death and destruction are acceptable means to human ends. Forgive us, God. Turn our hearts toward what is holy and right. Turn our faces toward your risen Son, whose light graces us with peace, love, and divine wisdom. On this day, move us to recommit ourselves to Christ's path of peace and the road of Christian discipleship. This road is difficult and most challenging. But this road also leads to new and renewed life.

*All people: Savior, hear our prayers that all who are struggling know your resurrection hope. We pray for those struggling under the weight of despair; those who feel trapped and victimized; those who lack necessary resources for survival; those who are exhausted and overwhelmed; those who are traumatized or depressed; those who are unsafe and without a place or a people to call home. We pray for the sick, the grieving, the loved ones we know are struggling. God of hope, hear our prayers, as well as those we name silently now before you in a moment of silent prayer.*

#### **SILENCE FOR PERSONAL PRAYER**

Preacher: Strong God, we praise you as the one who rolls stones away from empty tombs and as the one who opens minds and softens hearts. We stand in awe of your power on this Easter Sunday. We celebrate your risen Son. As the flowers bloom this spring and the butterflies emerge from their cocoons, we cannot help but hope in your everlasting love, our strong foundation that grounds us even as the world around us shakes. Now hear us as we pray together the prayer Jesus taught us saying,

*All people: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.*