May 9, 2021
Sixth Sunday of Easter

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PRELUDE  
Home is Where the Heart Is (Johnson)

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOTHER’S DAY TRIBUTE & PRAYER

INTROIT  
We Have Come into His House
(Troy will sing through the introit once. We will then, all join to sing it through TWICE)

We have come into his house and gathered in his name to worship him.
We have come into his house and gathered in his name to worship him.
We have come into his house and gathered in his name to worship Christ the Lord.
Worship Him - Christ The Lord.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 98)
Pastor: Sing to the Lord a new song.
All: For God has done marvelous things.
Pastor: The Lord has remembered us with steadfast love and faithfulness.
All: All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of God.
Pastor: Sing to the Lord a new song.
All: For God has done marvelous things.
Pastor: The Lord has remembered us through this long year in pandemics of body and soul.
All: All the ends of the earth have seen a new beginning, a new hope for living in justice and love.
Pastor: Sing to the Lord a new song.
All: For God has done marvelous things.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Resurrected Lord, we gather in your love. We rejoice for you have brought us together again. You have done a marvelous thing! You have given us new hope. We are thinking about re-opening our lives, even as we have re-opened the sanctuary for in-person worship. Remind us to love one another as we think of such things. Let us not go back to the way things were. Let us love one another and make things better. Help us to live into your resurrection, a new beginning, a new chance to get things right. In the name of the One who came to make all things new, we pray. Amen.

HYMN  
Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

FIRST READING - 1 John 5:1-16

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 Rev. Dr. F. Timothy Moore, the former pastor of Sardis Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, is the author of both today’s Opening Prayer and Practicing Midrash: Reading the Bible’s Arguments as an Invitation to Conversation.
6This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

GOSPEL READING – John 15:9-17

9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 12 This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

HYMN

Jesus, Jesu

Refrain Unison

Jesus, Jesu, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si-lent-ly wash-es their
2. Neigh-bors are rich and poor, neigh-bors are black and
3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
4. Lov-ing puts us on our knees, serv ing as though we are
5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si-lent-ly wash-ing their

feet, Mas-ter who acts as a slave to them.
white, neigh-bors are near and far a way.
love, all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
slaves, this is the way we should live with you.
feet, this is the way we should live with you.
PRAYER: A CONFESSION OF RESURRECTION PRAISE

All: Where children have lost education, may love open up new possibilities for learning.
Where jobs have been lost and savings spent, may love open up new opportunities for the future.
Where racial injustice has created inequities, may love advance systems of fairness and justice.
Where despair has squeezed happiness out of life, may love spring forth joy from deep within our being.
Where death has entered homes this pandemic, may love heal grief, honor the dead, and bring life from their memory.

Remembering all that has been lost this past year, we renew our faith in God.
For we believe in God, who created the world from nothing, who brought order to chaos.
We believe in Jesus the Christ, whose death was resurrected into new life.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, who makes all things new.
Wherever life is taken away we believe in God’s resurrection.
For in God life is the final word, not death, hope is everlasting, and love conquers all. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: Family of God, there are many signs we claim for our faith but ultimately it is our active love that reveals who we worship. As we consider this moment of invitation – let us commit to give of our whole selves. May we give generously of our talents, financial resources, and time with the expectation that they will be used to further God’s purposes in this church, our community, the world. Let us pause in silence for a moment to recommit ourselves to God’s service through the church and to give as we are able.

(Pause)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Victorious God, we promise to use these gifts for good. We promise to use these gifts in furthering your kingdom here on earth. We commit to using these gifts in love and mercy for others. Amen.

HYMN

Love Divine, All Love’s Excelling

Bulletin, next page

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Friends, as you leave this time of worship:
Share your faith to cast our fear.
Live into the hope to come and overcome evil with good.
And now may the love of God,
the grace of our Resurrected Lord,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
walk with you every step of the way.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

A Mother’s Love (Davis)
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Charles Wesley, 1747

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of Heav’n to earth come down;
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit, Into every troubled breast!
3. Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive;
4. Finish, then, Thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be.

Fix in us thy humble dwelling; All thy faithful mercies crown!
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find that second rest.
Suddenly return and never, Never more Thy temples leave.
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee;

Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love Thou art;
Take away our bent to singing; Alpha and Omega be;
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Changed from glory into glory, Till in Heav’n we take our place,

Visit us with Thy salvation; Enter every trembling heart.
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™
Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

Louise Ruspini; alt.

Unison C FM7 C C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C

1 Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.
2 Open yourself to the song. Open yourself to the song.
3 Open your hearts everyone. Open your hearts everyone.
4 Don't be afraid of some change. Don't be afraid of some change.
5 Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.

C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C F Em7 A7 Dm7sus4 Dm7 G7 C

Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.
Standing on the Promises

1. Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
   through eternal ages let his praises ring;
   glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
   standing on the promises of God.

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
   when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
   by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
   standing on the promises of God.

3. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
   bound to him eternally by love’s strong cord,
   overcoming daily with the Spirit’s sword,
   standing on the promises of God.

4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
   listening every moment to the Spirit’s call,
   resting in my Savior as my all in all,
   standing on the promises of God.

Sing the REFRAIN next - between each verse (on following page)
Refrain

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises, standing on the promises,

Standing on the promises of God my Savior;

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises, standing on the promises,

I'm standing on the promises of God.