

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 PRAYER¹

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* **Last Page of Bulletin**

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. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who 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

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I 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. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I 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. ¹⁶You 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. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

HYMN

Jesus, Jesu

Refrain
Unison

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

Fine

us how to serve the neigh-bors 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

D. C.

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

John Zundel, 1870

♩-112

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of two systems of vocal parts (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. The first system contains the first four lines of lyrics. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final four lines. The piano accompaniment is written in the bass clef and provides harmonic support for the vocal lines.

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, Joy of Heav'n to earth come down;
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it, In - to ev - ery trou - bled breast!
3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy life re - ceive;
4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less let us be.

Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; All thy faith - ful mer - cies crown!
Let us all in Thee in - her - it; Let us find that se - cond rest.
Sud - den - ly re - turn and ne - ver, Ne - ver more Thy tem - ples leave.
Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee;

Je - sus, Thou art all com - pass - ion, Pure un - bound - ed love Thou art;
Take a - way our bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove,
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in Heav'n we take our place,

Vi - sit us with Thy sal - va - tion; En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at li - ber - ty.
Pray and praise Thee with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
Till we cast our crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

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Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

73

Louise Ruspini; alt.

Ps. 100

Unison C FM7 C C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C

1 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.
2 O - pen your-self to the song. O - pen your-self to the song.
3 O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one. O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one.
4 Don't be a - fraid of some change. Don't be a - fraid of some change.
5 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.

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

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en-ter, re-joice, and come in.

1. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ my King,
 2. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es that can - not fail,
 3. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ the Lord,
 4. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es I can - not fall,

through e - ter - nal a - ges let his prais - es ring;
 when the howl - ing storms of doubt and fear as - sail,
 bound to him e - ter - nal - ly by love's strong cord,
 lis - tening ev - ery mo - ment to the Spir - it's call,

glo - ry in the high - est, I will shout and sing,
 by the liv - ing Word of God I shall pre - vail,
 o - ver - com - ing dai - ly with the Spir - it's sword,
 rest - ing in my Sav - ior as my all in all,

stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.

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

Refrain

Stand - ing, stand - ing,
Stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God my Sav - ior;

stand - ing, stand - ing,
stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

I'm stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.