Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 17, 2020

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**GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: Come to worship, people of God with praises on your lips.

***All people: We will glorify the One who holds our hands when we slip.***

Pastor: Come into the presence of the One who calls us into this sacred time.

***All people: There’s a wideness in God’s mercy, which is available to all.***

Pastor: Come and hear the stories of the One who loves you!

***All people: We will tell of the joy and of the love,***

***of the peace and of the hope, which is ours.***

**HYMN *There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy***



**ACT OF CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF MERCY**

Liturgist: Children of God, what is our hope?

***All people: Simply put, it is this: GOD DOES NOT GIVE UP ON US!***

Liturgist: Well, with such GOOD NEWS as THAT, let us bring our confessions of sin to the One who will not cast us aside. Let us pray…

***Liturgist: Loving God, in Jesus you offer life to the world and love to all its people. When we see life only for ourselves, forgive us. Help us to hear your transforming love speaking to us of respect, dignity and worth, telling us that we are loved and that we are to love one another, in like manner. In the knowledge of this love work through us to bring your reconciliation, hope, and peace into the world. Amen.[[1]](#footnote-2)***

Liturgist: Despite everything we do, God still loves us!

God’s grace is *why* we can dare to have hope!

***All people: Then, let us witness to this hope in our every word and deed – in every interaction, with every person we meet. Thanks be to God for amazing grace that can save even a wretch like “we!”***

**SONG OF PRAISE *Amazing Grace***

***Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.***

***I once was lost, but now am found. ‘Twas blind but now I see!***

**EPISTLE READING Acts 17:22-31 (NIV)**

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship-and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. "The God who made the world and everything in it is the LORD of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' "Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone-an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

**GOSPEL READING John 14:15-21 (NIV)**

"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be *in* you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

**SERMON Rev. Laura C. Bair**

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER**

***All: 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.***

**SPECIAL MUSIC *What a Fellowship* Dr. Troy Winemiller**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

***All people: Great God of Heaven and Earth, you call us to leave behind our preoccupations and to follow you into the future. Sometimes we find your call challenging. We have grown comfortable, maybe even complacent. Move us to new ways of living and giving. May our acts of giving serve as a blessing of your Presence in the world. May they also serve as a gesture of our willingness to follow wherever you lead. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.***

**HYMN *We Shall Overcome* Last page of Bulletin**

**BENEDICTION[[2]](#footnote-3)**

Pastor: Go from this place, speaking of what God has done.

***All people: We will remind everyone that, despite everything, God loves us.***

Pastor: Go from this place, singing of what God continues to do!

***All people: We will rejoice that God has not left us orphaned,***

 ***But makes us one with everyone around us.***

Pastor: Go from this place, imagining what God is yet to do!

***All people: We will witness to that hope which seems so distant,***

***yet is as close to us as our hearts. Amen.***

***We Shall Overcome***



There is still some Easter Candy left. Please contact the church office at (717) 266-4248 to place your order and to see what is available. We will have it bagged up and ready for pick-up on a scheduled date/time or on Sunday morning “drive-in” worship. Thank You!

**Easter Candy!**

1. Posted on the Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website. <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Shuman, Thom M. http://lectionaryliturgies.logspot.com/2014/05/liturgy-wcommunion-for-may-25-2014.html [↑](#footnote-ref-3)