

(Verse 1, only)

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*All people: On my own, what I have to give doesn't amount to much in the light of all you have given to me and in the face of so much need. Put together as a congregation, what we offer you here in love becomes more, not simply added together, but somehow multiplied in its usefulness. We ask you to bless our gifts and with the addition of your blessing, just as it was with the loaves and fishes, so there is more than enough for all. Amen.*

## HYMN

*Here I Am, Lord*

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## BENEDICTION (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Rebekah: Now to Christ Jesus,  
who is able to do far more abundantly  
than all that we ask or think,  
according to the power at work within us.  
To him be glory in the church  
and in Christ Jesus  
throughout all generations,  
forever and ever!

*All people: Amen!*

## POSTLUDE

References

- Unless noted otherwise, today's liturgy was written and inspired by Rebekah Wertz' insights from her confirmation study of Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:31-44, Luke 9:12-17, and John 6:1-14. The hymns were also selected by Rebekah.
- *Call to Worship* is based on the following scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1:9, 2 Thessalonians 3:3, 2 Timothy 2:13, Deuteronomy 7:9, and Psalm 36:5. Written by Pastor Laura Baker. 16 May 2023.
- *Prayer of Confession* was written by Rebekah Wertz with additional insights from fellow confirmation classmates, Ty and Drew Moyer.
- *Offering Invitation* was written by Pastor Laura Baker. 16 May 2023.
- *Prayer of Dedication* is called "Enough for All." It is from the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand website: <http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/> as shared on re:worship website: [re:Worship: Prayer: Enough for All \(re-worship.blogspot.com\)](http://re:Worship: Prayer: Enough for All (re-worship.blogspot.com)). 16 May 2023.

May 21, 2023

Seventh Sunday of Easter – Ascension Sunday  
Confirmation Service of Rebekah Wertz

## GREETINGS &amp; ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Rebekah: God is faithful and has called us into fellowship with God's Son: Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*All people: Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Rebekah: The Lord is faithful. The Lord will strengthen and protect you.

*All people: Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Rebekah: Even if we are faithless, the Lord remains faithful.

*All people: Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Rebekah: Know that the Lord your God is a faithful God who keeps the covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love God and keep God's commandments.

*All people: Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Rebekah: God's love reaches to the heavens. God's faithfulness to the skies!

*All people: Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me! Let us pray together.*

## HYMN

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

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(Verses 1 and 2, only)

## CALL TO CONFESSION (1 John 1:9)

Rebekah: First John, chapter 1, verse 9 reads: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in this promise, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*All people: Merciful God, we confess our sin in the form of excuses we make for not sharing our resources and for not loving and serving others. We say: I'm too busy. I don't want to help. I don't know how to help. I don't have enough of what is needed to make a difference. Other people can do it - they have more time, more money, or more skills than me. I don't have enough information. I don't understand the problem. I don't want things to change. People can help themselves! I'm too tired. The truth, O Lord, is that sometimes we feel more important and more righteous than others and look down on them in their need. We also don't want to learn anything new because we like things the way they are! Tradition is important. In all honesty, we're selfish too, and lazy about becoming more aware and current on matters such as generational differences, LGBTQ concerns, immigration and the care of our planet and its creatures. Remaining unknowledgeable and unaware about issues – makes for a good excuse - because we can truthfully say, "I don't or didn't know about this or that." Please forgive us, Jesus. Many are hungering and thirsting for justice and peace. Many go without their basic needs being met. Remind us again of the many blessings in our lives and move us to learn, to grow, and to serve as you would have us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rebekah: Hear the Good News! God promises to forgive us. God's Spirit is always within us and moving us to do and be better.

*All people: Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me! Therefore, I will do my best to live more into the Christ-like person you are creating me to be! As a church, the body of Christ, we will strive to minister according to your will in meeting the demands of this day and time in history!*

## PRAISE HYMN

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

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(Verse 3, only)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth;  
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

*(Refrain)*

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided.  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

## JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

**Pastor Laura**

## HYMN

*Take My Life, and Let it Be*

**Hymnal #253**

## GOSPEL READING – Matthew 14:13-21

## SERMON

*What's a Few Fish?*

**Ms. Rebekah Wertz**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "sins")

*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.*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

**Mr. Caleb Dove**

## OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: God invites us to share whatever we have in our metaphorical baskets. We trust Jesus to bless the offerings of our time, talent, and money and to use it for his divine and miraculous will.