

Order of Worship for the Lord's Day
Second Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 11, 2021

Prelude

“Minuet from Quintet in E”

by Luigi Boccherini

Kay Gilbert, violin
Annette Martin, harpsichord
Central Presbyterian, Anderson

Call to Worship from Psalm 133 and John 20

Rev. Bessie Black
Westminster (Saxon), Spartanburg

Leader: Peace be with you.

People: How good and pleasant it is when we live in unity.

Leader: Receive the Holy Spirit.

People: It is like precious oil on the head, the blessing of the Lord.

Prayer of Adoration

*Breathe in this place, O Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
to open our minds, unlock our hearts,
and enliven our faith so that we may welcome the risen one among us. Amen.*

Hymn #339

“God Welcomes All”

Holt and Rafe Andrews
First Presbyterian, Spartanburg

God welcomes all, strangers and friends; God's love is strong and it never ends.

Call to Confession

Rev. Robert Bannon
First Presbyterian, Spartanburg

“If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense. On the other hand, if we admit our sins—make a clean breast of them—he won't let us down; he'll be true to himself.” (1 John 1:8-9, THE MSG). Let us boldly confront the throne of grace and confess our need for God's love, God's grace, and God's mercy.

Prayer of Confession

God of grace, God of compassion, we confess that we need proof. In the midst of a pandemic, we feel locked behind doors both physical and emotional. We confess with Thomas that we long to see you, now. You call on us to be hearers and doers of your Word, but we find ourselves paralyzed with fear, bitterness, hard-heartedness. Soften our hearts, God. As you have knitted and joined us together, knit us together now in unity. Give us the courage to set aside all that threatens to divide us, and bring us together in new and miraculous ways. Show us once again your glory, and pour your peace out over us, so that we might be agents of peacemaking in your world. Send your Spirit to dwell within us again, so that we might be able to be the Easter People you called us to be. Amen. (silent reflection)

Declaration of God's Forgiveness

Siblings in Christ, hear the Good News and believe it: Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in victory over sin and death for you and for me, so that we are made into a new creation, and given new life in Jesus Christ. Know that by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, we all are forgiven people. Amen.

Hymn

“Jesus Loves Me”

Wendi Arms, vocalist

Pam Turnage, piano

Lisa Dillard, flute

First Presbyterian, Greer

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago, taking children on his knee,
saying, “Let them come to me.” Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

Story for All God's Children

Terri Luzynski
Trinity, Travelers Rest

Prayer for Illumination

Dr. Rev. Lerone Wilder
Mattoon, Greenville

Scripture

John 20:19-31

Rev. Mary Kathleen Duncan
Westminster, Greenville

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”

²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon**“Unlikely Bearers of Good News”**

Rev. Mary Kathleen Duncan
Westminster, Greenville
Dr. Rev. Lerone Wilder
Mattoon, Greenville

Hymn 817

“We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight” Katie Knauer, Diana Dailey,
Derek Pitman, and Mark Kemp
Nancy Smith, organist
Westminster, Greenville

**We walk by faith, and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: “My peace be with you here”.**

**We may not touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod,
but in his promise we rejoice, and cry, “My Lord and God!”**

**Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found:**

**that when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are in full and endless sight.**

Affirmation of Faith *Selections of Scripture (Book of Common Worship)*

Sara Cox
Eastminster, Simpsonville

**This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast:
that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,
that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day,
and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter,
and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end.
He is our Lord and our God. Amen**

Call to Offering**Offertory Anthem**

“My Jesus I Love Thee”
arr. Sjolund

Mark and Robbi Stokes
Chip and Diane Egan
Judy Bonham, Organist
Fort Hill, Clemson

Prayer of Dedication, Intercession and the Lord’s Prayer

Elizabeth Jones, CRE
Flat Rock, Anderson

Hymn #298**“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”**

Barry and Lela Graden,
Lisa Johnson, Bob Schroeder,
and Marley Wolfe
Brooke Clay, Accompanist
Ashleigh Ledford, Flute
Grace Covenant, Mauldin

**Lord, you give the great commission: “Heal the sick and preach the word.”
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:
with the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.**

**Lord, you call us to your service: “In my name baptize and teach.”
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community:
with the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.**

**Lord, you bless with words assuring: “I am with you to the end.”
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend,
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity:
with the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.**

Charge and Benediction**Postlude****“An Easter Hymn of Praise”**
by McKay

Jim McMillan, guitar
Steve Moore, violin
Trish McCoy, flute
Ann Merritt, piano
Nita McMillan, organ
Westminster, Westminster

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