Westminster Presbyterian Church

MAY 9, 2021
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Welcome and Announcements — **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Gathering Words — **Rachel and Eric Weiss**

It is a joy to live the commandments of love.
A source of freedom from what deadens and destroys!
Through these teachings, we are born again.
Our spirits are nourished, and our communities come alive.
What a gift, the love of God!
Abundant and unending.
In the knowledge of this power, let all come and abide.

Opening Prayer — **Rachel and Eric Weiss**

Holy Parent,
We don't know where love is:

When we treat our faith merely as a self-help system
and You as simply a cure for whatever ails us,
When we waste and destroy the gifts our planet gives,
When we deny and disdain truths and practices
that others hold dear,
When we ignore the sickness and loneliness,
the struggle and the vulnerability of others
because it doesn't affect us,
When we berate ourselves for our failures,
or holds ourselves to impossible and trivial standards.

Forgive us, Loving God.
Teach us and our world on how to love
so we may abide in You and with one another.
Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 515 — I Come with Joy — DOVE OF PEACE

Prayer of Illumination — **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Scripture Reading — John 15:9-17

[9]As the Divine Parent 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 Parent's commandments and abide in God's 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 Divine Parent. [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 God will give you whatever you ask God in my name. [17]I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Sermon **Abiding in Love** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Hymn Love is the Touch of Intangible Joy JOHN BELL

Love is the touch of intangible joy.
Love is the force that no fear can destroy.
Love is the goodness we gladly applaud:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the lilt in a lingering voice.
Love is the hope that can make us rejoice.
Love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain.
love is the will to be whole once again.
Love is the trust of a friend on the road:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the Maker, and Spirit, and Son.
Love is the kingdom their will has begun.
Love is the pathway the saints all have trod:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Prayer of the People **Rachel and Eric Weiss**

We pray in the name of the One who is to come, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray together:

O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere!
Release a space to plant your Presence here.
Imagine your possibilities now.
Embody your desire in every light and form.
Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.
Untie the knots of failure binding us,
as we release the strands we hold of others' faults.
Help us not forget our Source,
Yet free us from not being in the Present.
From you arises every Vision, Power and Song from gathering to gathering.
Amen—
May our future actions grow from here!

Closing Hymn No. 611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee HYMN TO JOY

Benediction **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

*Note: The Gathering Words were adapted from *Enflesh: Liturgy that Matters.*
The Opening Prayer was inspired by John van de Laar's poem *Where is Love*.
The Lord's Prayer is a retranslation from the Aramaic by Mark Berry from the Emerging Church Movement.