



**May 17, 2020**

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter**

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

**The Prelude**

*Come Down, O Love Divine*

Wilbur Held

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**The Introit**

Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

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**The Call to Worship**

Leader: The Lord has been our refuge and our keeper.

People: **It is God who has kept us from falling and saved our lives.**

Leader: Let our thanks and praise resound throughout this place of worship

People: **Let our love and gratitude be shown in all that we do.**

Leader: Open your hearts and spirits to God this day.

People: **Lord, be with us and place your hand of healing in our lives. Amen.**

**The Hymn No. 152    *I Sing the Almighty Power of God*    FOREST GREEN**

1. I sing the almighty power of God,  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad,  
and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at God's command,  
and all the stars obey.
2. I sing the goodness of the Lord,  
who filled the earth with food,  
who formed the creatures thru the Word,  
and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,  
where'er I turn my eye,  
if I survey the ground I tread,  
or gaze upon the sky.
3. There's not a plant or flower below,  
but makes thy glories known,  
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
by order from thy throne;  
while all that borrows life from thee  
is ever in thy care;  
and everywhere that we can be,  
thou, God, art present there.

## The Prayer of Confession

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Lord of mercy, there are so many times in our lives when we feel alone.**

**We wonder where you are.**

**We cry out to you in our confusion, pain, and hurt.**

**And when you do not immediately grant the prayers of our cries,  
we begin to doubt that you even care or exist.**

**Stop us from going down this path of self-destruction.**

**Help us look around and find the many ways  
in which you have blessed our lives.**

**Forgive us when we are so quick to doubt  
and so arrogant in our demands of your responses.**

**Give us a spirit of patience and willingness to be ready to hear your voice.  
Strengthen us for the ministries of love and hope**

**that you have placed before us;  
for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

## The Words of Assurance

Even in the midst of doubt and darkness, the light of God is shining in you, on you, and through you. Out of God's great love, you have been redeemed and made whole. Rejoice, beloved of God! Amen.

## The First Lesson

Acts 17:22-31

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalter pages 790-791 with response

Psalm 66:8-20

[The first response will be sung by the choir and then by everyone. All other responses will be sung by everyone.]

### Response:

Ps. 67:4a, 7  
Carlton R. Young



O Peo-ple, be glad and sing for joy! De -clare God's glo - ry in ev - ery Land!

### Response

8 Bless our God, O peoples,  
let the sound of God's praise be heard,

9 who has kept us among the living,  
and has not let our feet slip.

**10 For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.**

11 You brought us into the net;  
you laid affliction on our loin;

**12 you let people ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us forth to a spacious place.**

**Response**

13 I will come into your house with burnt offerings;  
I will pay you my vows,  
14 that which my lips uttered  
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.  
**15 I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings,  
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;  
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.**

**Response**

16 Come and hear, all you who worship God,  
and I will tell what God has done for me.  
**17 I cried aloud to God,  
who was highly praised with my tongue.**  
18 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened.  
**19 But truly God has listened,  
and has given heed to the voice of my prayer.**  
**20 Blessed be God,  
who has not rejected my prayer  
or removed his steadfast love from me.**

**Response**

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**The Second Lesson**

1 Peter 3:13-22

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**The Hymn No. 2248**

*Baptized in Water*

BUNESSAN

1. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;  
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,  
faithfully now God's praises we sing.
2. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;  
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,  
thankfully now God's praises we sing.
3. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
marked with the sign of Christ, our King;  
born of one Father, we are his children,  
joyfully now God's praises we sing.

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Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.  
People:



### The Gospel Lesson

John 14:15-21

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.  
People:



### The Sermon

*The Post-Pandemic Church*

Dr. Matthew D. Bates

### The Affirmation of Faith No. 883 *A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada*

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,**  
    **who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,**  
    **to reconcile and make new,**  
    **who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,**  
    **to love and serve others,**  
    **to seek justice and resist evil,**  
    **to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,**  
    **our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,**

**God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen**

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### The Offertory Prayer

#### The Offertory Anthem

*If Ye Love Me*

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments,  
and I will pray the Father.  
and he shall give you another comforter,  
that he may bide with you forever,  
e'en the spirit of truth.

John 14:15-17

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## The Prayers of the People

The Silent Prayer  
The Pastoral Prayer

## The Lord's Prayer No. 895

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those that trespass 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.**

## The Hymn No. 384

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

using alternate tune HYFRYDOL

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
all thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in thee inherit;  
let us find that second rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## The Benediction

### The Choral Response

So then the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace,  
till Love create a place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

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## The Postlude

*Dialogue sur les Grands Jeux*  
(A Dialog for the Loud Stops)

Jean-Adam Guilain

*We thank these persons who participated in worship this morning.*

Senior Pastor: Rev. Matthew D. Bates  
Minister to Young Adults: Drew Willson  
Director of Music: Stanley M. Baker  
Pianist: Lee Covington  
Singers: Emily Downey, Gabrielle Maes, Todd Minnich, Sam Cook  
Video: Rachel Bates

## Scriptures

### Acts 17:22-32

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

### 1 Peter 3:13-22

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the

body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,<sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## **John 14:15-21**

### **The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”