First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Digital Traditional Service

April 25, 2021

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE "Andante Tranquillo" from Seven Sketches for Organ P. Whitlock

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN #108

Christ is Alive! TRURO

1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
To distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now,
And touching every place and time.

3 Not throned afar, remotely high,
Untouched, unmoved by human pains,
But daily, in the midst of life,
Our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

4 In every insult, rift and war,
Where color, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
And lives, where even hope has died.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
Good news to this and every age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring
With joy, with justice, love and praise.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving God, in Jesus you come to us as the Good Shepherd who protects and cares for his flock, even by laying down his life for ours. Yet we still wander off and even run away, ignoring Christ's voice while listening to others. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to listen for and listen to Christ's voice, to know him even as we are known by him, and to trust him to lead us safely home to be with all those called together as his flock.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

SPECIAL MUSIC Shepherd Me, O God — Marty Haugen
Rebecca Erhardt, Soprano

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE John 10:11-18 — Bob Hunsicker
Leader: The word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

SERMON — The Rev. J.C. Austin

"The In-Crowd"

WE RESPOND

HYMN — #358
Help Us Accept Each Other — BARONITA

1 Help us accept each other
As Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother,
Each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
And bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted
And meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O Lord, Your lessons,
As in our daily life
We struggle to be human

And search for hope and faith
Teach us to care for people,
For all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them
Or as they may become.

3 Let Your acceptance change us,
So that we may be moved
In living situations
To do the truth in love;
To practice Your acceptance
Until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness
And laughter's healing art.

4 Lord, for today's encounters
With all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance,
For righteousness and bread,
We need new eyes for seeing,
New hands for holding on:
Renew us with Your Spirit;
Lord, free us, make us one!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Variations on "Amazing Grace" setting Jean Langlais

*Response - #592 OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him, above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

*Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN #451

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones LASST UNS ERFREUEN

1 Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
Bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,
Raise the glad strain, Alleluia!
Cry out, dominions, princedoms, powers,
Virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 O higher than the cherubim,
More glorious than the seraphim,
Lead their praises, Alleluia!
Thou bearer of the eternal Word,
Most gracious, magnify the Lord,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
Ye patriarchs and prophets blest,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong,
All saints triumphant, raise the song,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 O friends, in gladness let us sing,
Supernal anthems echoing,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Postlude in G, op. 134 no. 6 Gustav Merkel