

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

6th Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Meditation before Worship

We rejoice today, God of joy, because once more we have come into your presence. These people around us, sisters and brothers, are all a reminder that you are faithful to us. Be active in our worship today, inspiring us through words and music, song and silence, laughter and tears, intention and inspiration. We praise you for the beauty of the earth and the glory of your entire universe, for the church that we share and the people that we love. We praise you most of all because you are God and worthy of praise before everything else in all creation! Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

J. S. Bach. (1685-1750)

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Garage Sale

Joyce Lloyd

Introit "Kyrie"

John Gorman, 1987

Lord have mercy on us.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy on us.

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather in worship to celebrate God, the great I Am!

People: We rejoice in both Creator and creation.

Leader: We are awed by the beauty and diversity of the world.

People: We celebrate God's covenant with us.

Leader: We remember God's faithfulness through the ages and in our own lives.

People: We give thanks for God's eternal love and mercy.

Leader: God is too great for us to keep silent!

People: Praise comes naturally in response to who God is and what God has done.

Leader: Our joy overflows; it cannot be contained.

People: Let us join heart and hands and voices to worship the Lord our God.

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

People: We will rejoice and be glad in it!

***Hymn**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

#611

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we confess that in attitude and action this week, we have been less than you created and called us to be. We have forgotten your blessings toward us and in so doing, have failed to be a blessing to others. We have taken for granted the limitless depth of your love and forgiveness and in so doing, we have withheld love and forgiveness from others. In our misguided efforts to maintain control, we have clung to bitterness, hurt, anger, and disappointment, rather than letting go in faith and trust, releasing ourselves to the healing and cleansing power of your Spirit. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive us for our willingness to settle for so much less than you desire to give us and to do in us.

Restore us to right relationship with you and with one another, for the sake of your Son, our Savior and Friend, Jesus Christ. Amen.

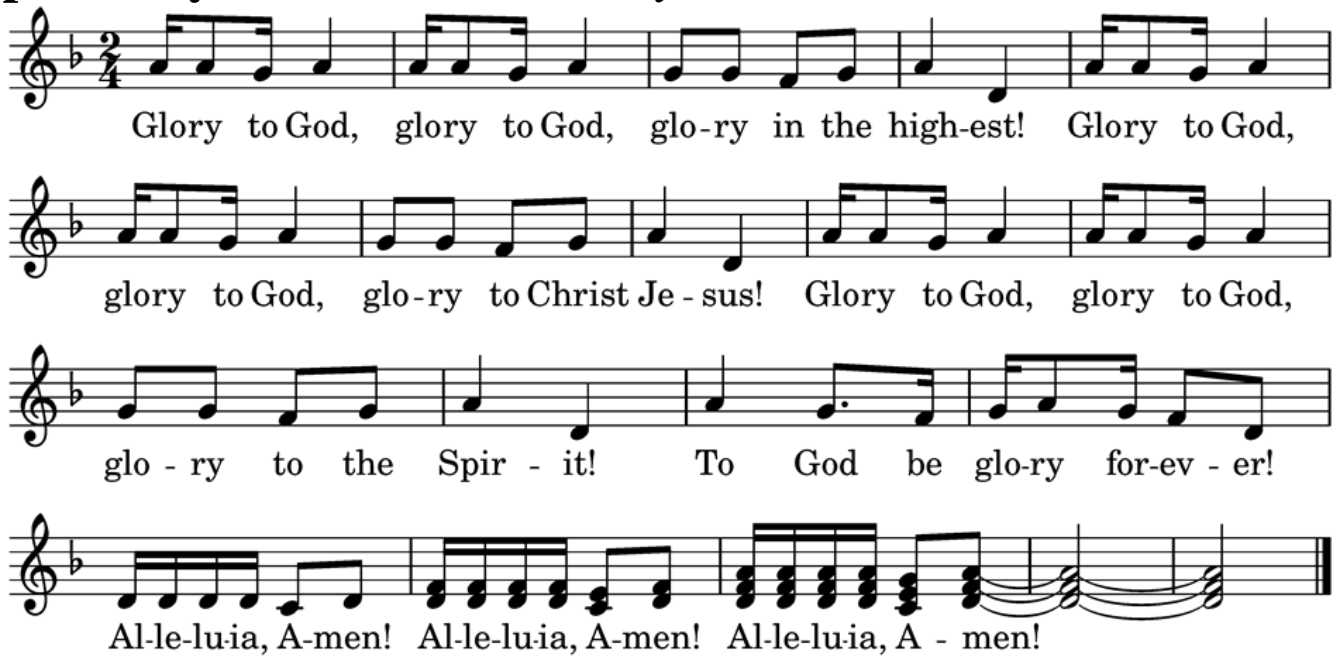
(Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

*Response Hymn

“Glory to God”

#585



Glory to God, glory to God, glo-ry in the high-est! Glory to God,
glory to God, glo-ry to Christ Je - sus! Glory to God, glory to God,
glo - ry to the Spir - it! To God be glo-ry for-ev - er!
Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men!

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

John 15:9-17

Choir Anthem “Jesus Loves Me” John Gorman and Harry Wright, 1987

Jesus loves me, yes I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong. They are weak but he is strong.

God does love the children here for to him they are so dear.

He has given his own son and Christ died for every one of us.

God has given us the light, for through Jesus we have sight.

It’s for us to spread the seed, hungry minds that we must feed.

Jesus loves me, yes I know, it’s for me to tell them so.

Jesus loves me, yes I know, the Bible tells me so.

Second Scripture Reading

Psalms 98

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Sing a New Song”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Invitation to Offering**

***Response** “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks” (refrain)

#240

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(We will be receiving communion by coming forward to one of the two stations on each side of the communion table. Please exit the pews to the center aisle and return to the pews from the outside aisles. An elder or deacon will be available to serve communion to those who wish to remain seated. Gluten-free bread can be found on the communion table.)

***Invitation to the Lord’s Table**

***Hymn of Invitation** “I Come with Joy”

#515

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: May the God of creation choruses be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: God sings of hope and grace to your hearts, people of God!

People: We open our hearts to be filled with the wonder of love.

Leader: God welcomes your songs of praise and joy.

People: We lift our hearts and voices in thanksgiving to the composer of all!

Leader: Maestro of the Universe ... we lift our voices in praise to you:

People: Holy, holy, holy are you, God of beauty and joy. All the ends of the earth sing praises to you. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes to sing a new song. Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: Holiness is the melody ... we sing of that mystery we call faith:

People: The Singer was not silenced by death; the Singer was raised to new life; the Singer will come to lead us home to God.

Leader: Pour out your joyful Spirit ... Holy in One. Amen.

The 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Almighty and everlasting God, you have restored us to eternal life through the resurrection of Jesus Christ your Son: mercifully grant that this Paschal sacrament, which you have given to us as spiritual food, may fill our hearts with love and strengthen us for your service. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

The Sending of God's People

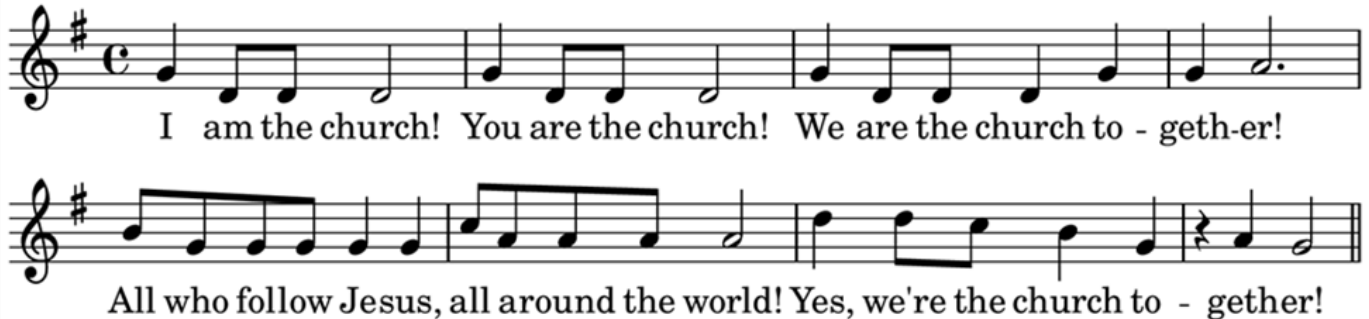
***Closing Hymn**

“Joy to the World”

#134

***Charge and Blessing**

***Congregational Response** “We Are the Church”



I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!

All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - geth-er!

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***Postlude**

"Hymn to Joy"

arr. Charles Callahan

Pastors: Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood
Steven A. Watters

Liturgist: Melissa Canney

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Pianist: John Gorman

Our liturgist, Melissa, grew up in the village of Hamburg, New York just south of Buffalo, where she has fond memories attending Hamburg Presbyterian Church with her family. She came to Ohio to attend Wittenberg University to study Psychology. She had a muy buena Spanish professor at Witt named Senora Blayney!

Melissa has been married to Jim for 24 years and they have a large blended family where they love spending time together at sporting events, pool parties and beach vacations. Outside of gardening, running, and reading, Melissa loves walking Rusty, her big red dog. After 36 years working full time in the field of social services in Madison County, Melissa will join Jim in retirement this summer. She feels grateful for all the opportunities God has provided, allowing her to use her gifts and serve.