

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023

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

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Gracious God, you have given yourself to us in the person of Jesus. We have his example of loving ministry as a guide for our lives. We stand as people forgiven and reconciled to you. Be with us this day. Remind us that you are always near. Guide our lives. For we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word" arr. J. Wayne Kerr

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

"Lead Me, Jesus"

South African song

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We are called by God,

People: Drawn to the water,

Leader: Sprinkled with love,

People: Claimed forever.

Leader: We are loved by God,

People: Never forgotten,

Leader: Treated as honored and precious,

People: Receiving divine blessing.

Leader: We are sent by God,

People: To befriend the world,

Leader: Cherish the young,

People: Comfort the grieving,

Leader: Lift up the fallen,

People: Forever singing of God's love.

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Just and merciful God, as we consider the sacrament of baptism, the symbol of your cleansing grace and of our reception into the worldwide church of your Son, we are painfully conscious of the distance between your holiness and our humanity. We have forgotten that we are marked as your own. We have not acted as members of the body of Christ. We have gazed contentedly on the status quo and ignored the voice that calls us to repent. We do not believe that we need to be forgiven for anything. Forgive our arrogance, O God. Help us to look on your Son as our model and to take his humility upon ourselves.

By our participation in this sacrament of acceptance and welcome, help us to become more accepting and welcoming toward others. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our gracious Lord, whose invitation to the waters of baptism and to renewal of spirit includes all your children. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

*Assurance of Pardon

*Response Hymn

“Glory to God”

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

1 Peter 1:17-23

Choir Anthem "I've Just Seen Jesus" W. Gaither, D. Daniels, G. Gaither arr. Clint Morse

We knew He was dead; "It is finished," He said.
We had watched as His life ebbed away.
Then we all stood around 'til the guards cut Him down.
Joseph begged for His body that day.
It was late afternoon when we got to the tomb,
Wrapped His body and sealed up the grave.
So I know how you feel; His death was so real,
But please listen and hear what I say.
(refrain) I've just seen Jesus! I tell you He's alive!
I've just seen Jesus, my precious Lord alive.
And I know He really saw me, too.
As if 'til now I never lived.
All that I'd done before won't matter anymore.
I've just seen Jesus, and I'll never be the same again.
It was His voice that I heard; those kind, gentle words
Asking what was my reason for tears.
And I sobbed in despair, "My Lord is not there."
He said, "Child, it is I. I am here!" (refrain)

Second Scripture Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Baptism: A Call and a Promise" Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

Invitation to Offering

*Response "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" (refrain)

#240

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sacrament of Baptism

***Hymn**

“Take Me to the Water”

#480

Presentation

Leader: Our salvation comes not ... renewal by the Holy Spirit.

People: God pours out this Spirit upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior so that, having been justified by grace, we might become heirs to the hope of eternal life.

Pastor: Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Katherine by word and deed, with love and prayer?

People: We do.

Pastor: Will you encourage her to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of his church?

People: We will.

Profession of Faith

Leader: With the whole church ... as printed in your bulletins.

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving over the Water

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Blessed are you ... Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

The Baptism

Laying On of Hands and Anointing

Welcome and Presentation of Gifts

The Sending of God's People

*Closing Hymn "Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters"

#490

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response "We Are the Church"



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*Postlude "We Know That Christ Is Raised"

arr. Anna Laura Page

Pastors: Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood
Steve Watters
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd
Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Cindy Newman

Acolyte: Devin Griggs, Darren Cox

When Cindy was 6 years old, her family moved to London when her father became the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. You might know him ... Rev. Gordon Johnson. Cindy has served the church in several capacities over the years ... Sunday School teacher (for 3rd grade students, unruly 4th grade boys, junior high students, and adults). She has also been a church camp advisor, youth group advisor, assistant church custodian, a member of the Presbyterian Women, Board of Deacons (clerk), and choir member. Currently, Cindy is a ruling elder.

Cindy is married to Rob, and they have 3 adult sons who all live/work in the Columbus area ... Nick, Drew, and Zach. Cindy is a registered nurse and works as an Instructional Designer in the Learning Dept. at Ohio Health.