

Celebration of Worship

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 29, 2018

9:30 A.M.

We welcome you to worship. We are glad that you are here! Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. The Young and Young at Heart are welcomed to the front early on for a special time in the service. Please sign the Friendship Pads so that we can get to know you better, and join us for coffee in the Narthex after the service.

Thought for Contemplation

“Peace has come to mean the time when there aren’t any wars or even when there aren’t any major wars. Beggars can’t be choosers; we’d most of us settle for that. But in Hebrew peace, *shalom*, means fullness, means having everything you need to be wholly and happily yourself.

One of the titles by which Jesus is known is Prince of Peace, and he used the word himself in what seems at first glance to be two radically contradictory utterances. On one occasion he said to the disciples, ‘*Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword*’ (Matthew 10:34). And later on, the last time they ate together, he said to them, ‘*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you*’ (John 14:27).

The contradiction is resolved when you realize that for Jesus, peace seems to have meant not the absence of struggle, but the presence of love.”

Frederick Buechner, Beyond Words, 2004

God Invites Us to Worship

WELCOME

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

Voluntary

Stanley

We Offer Praise

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Leader: Be glad in the Lord always. Again I say, be glad! Let your gentleness show in how you treat all people.

People: The Lord is near. Let’s not be anxious about anything; rather let’s pray together to God. Then the peace of God that excels all understanding will keep our hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

Leader: This is the God we love. This is the God we have gathered to worship. God is here among us.

People: Alleluia! Amen.

* Please stand, if you are able.

* HYMN OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE *God Is Here*

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* PRAYER OF ADORATION

* GOD’S BLESSING ON OUR WORSHIP

God Shows Grace and Forgiveness

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

GOD’S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS GRANTED

Share with your neighbors, “You are loved and you are forgiven!”

God Speaks with a Heart of Love

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message

Prayer

(Children in Preschool through 5th Grade are dismissed for Sunday School.)

PRAYER FOR GOD’S SPIRIT TO MOVE AMONG US (in unison)

Gracious God, as we prepare to hear your word to us, quiet other voices that would draw us away from attentive listening and faithful responding. Grant us new understanding and insights to help us follow you more faithfully. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON *John 13:33-35*

p. 877

NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE LESSON *Philippians 4:2-9*

p. 955

SERMON

Sharing a Mind

(Rev. James VanTholen)

Rev. Dr. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan

Rejoice in the Lord Always !

I’ll say it again – Rejoice !

VIDEO

Happy

Pharell Williams

We Respond in Re-Dedication

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Come, Lord Jesus, Be Among Us* Larson
Chancel Choir

Come, Lord Jesus, be among us; fill our lives with hope and power.
Now receive our loving service; make us one with Thee this hour.
Turn us from the things that bind us and the troubles that we face
To a moment filled with wonder in the splendor of Thy grace.

PRAYERS OF DEDICATION AND PRAISE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Debts/debtors)

* SONG *They Will Know We Are Christians*

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
And we'll pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. *Refrain*

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride. *Refrain*

God Sends Us Out to Serve

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* GOD'S BLESSING AS WE GO OUT TO SERVE

* DOXOLOGY *They Will Know We Are Christians*

All praise to the Father from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

* POSTLUDE *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* Beethoven

* PRAYER UNDER THE CROSS