

Celebration of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2017

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.

Thoughts for Reflection

“Somewhere along the life we bought – or were sold – is the idea that God is chiefly interested in religion. We believed that God’s home was the church, God’s people knew who they were, and the world was a barren place full of lost souls in need of all the help that they could get. The problem is, many people in need of saving are in churches, and at least part of what they need saving from is the idea that God sees the world the same that they do. What if the gravel in the parking lot looks as promising to God as the floorboards of the church? What if a lost soul strikes God as more preachable than a lifelong believer? What if God can drop a ladder almost anywhere with no regard for religious standards developed by those who have made their business to know the way of God?”

Barbara Brown Taylor

Order of Worship

WELCOME AND GREETING

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE *1st Movement from “Concerto in C”* J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 23* p. 435

* *Please stand, if you are able*

+ *Found on the screen*

* HYMN *The Church’s One Foundation* # 442

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Holy One, our world is filled with corruption: power disguises itself as truth; convenience masquerades as goodness; selfish pleasure imitates love. We confess to you, O God, that we have been caught in the web of the world’s sin. By the power of the Holy Spirit, save us from these deceptions and free us for glad obedience, that we may see the joy of Jesus’ resurrection and receive the promise of everlasting life. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (responsively)

Followers of Jesus: God has promised salvation to us, to our children, and to all who are near and far. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Praise and thanks be to God who makes this possible through his Son!

ANTHEM *Bwana Asifiwe!* Moklebust
(*Praise the Lord!*)
Alleluia Bells

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message *Sharing with a Generous Heart*

Prayer

(*Children in Preschool through 2nd Grade are dismissed for Praise & Play.*)

BRINGING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *The Lord Is My Shepherd* Pote
Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON *John 10:1-10* p. 872

+ NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *Acts 2:42-47* p. 886

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON *Would Jesus Join Our Church?*
Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. De Vuyst

* HYMN *The Church of Christ in Every Age* # 421

GREAT THANKSGIVING (responsively)

People: The Lord be with you.

Leader: And also with you.

People: Lift up your hearts.

Leader: We lift them up to the Lord!

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Words of Institution

Communion

The congregation is invited to come forward
and receive the elements by intinction.

Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (Debts/debtors)

* HYMN *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* # 172

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE *Presto from "Concerto in C"* J.S. Bach