

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

2 May 2021

8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Silent Reflection: “One sees great things from the valley; only small things from the peak.”

- G.K. Chesterton, *The Hammer of God*, quoted in *Christianity Today*, 15 June 2018, 59.

Words of Welcome - Welcome, dear friends. Because nothing can “separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39), we have gathered to respond in worship and praise. Please fill out the attendance card in your bulletin and drop them in the offering plates at the end of the service. Thank you!

WE GATHER AROUND GOD’S WORD

Prelude: (10:00) *Largo*

Flor Peeters (Belgium, 1903-1986)

Call to Worship: (Psalm 136)

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

His steadfast love endures forever.

O give thanks to the God of gods.

His steadfast love endures forever.

O give thanks to the Lord of lords.

His steadfast love endures forever.

Let us worship God.

Prayer of Adoration

Opening Hymn: (sung by the cantor)

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Cwm Rhondda

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

God of unfailing mercy and love, we acknowledge that Christ is the unshakable foundation of our lives. His constant love, his insistent call, and his enduring presence among us ease our anxiety and free us to bear his light into the darkest corners of our world. Yet as much as we believe this, we are reluctant to be used by Christ to build God’s kingdom. We do not sacrifice as he did. We reserve ourselves, as if a more important task will one day come and claim us. Daily we reject Christ’s claim as his beloved and chosen people. Forgive our reluctance to be your servants, O God, and declare again your words of mercy until we finally and totally believe them. We lift our prayers in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon:

Friends, believe the good news of the gospels.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

GOD’S WORD IS SPOKEN TO US

Prayer for Illumination

Epistle Lesson: I Peter 3:13-22
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Pew Bible p. 284

Message for Young Disciples

(Please have the children come forward to the front pew.)

Gospel Lesson: John 14:15-21

Pew Bible p. 133

Sermon:

IN THE NAME OF LOVE
The Rev. Dr. Brian K. Jensen

GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

Presbyterian Hymnal p. 35

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead,
and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

When the minister prays, "Lord, we lift these joys to you,"
the congregation responds, "**Thanks be to God.**"

When the minister prays, "Lord, we lift these concerns to you,"
the congregation responds, "**Lord hear our prayer.**"

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Presbyterian Hymnal p. 35

*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.*

GOD SENDS US FORTH TO SERVE

Hymn of Commitment: (sung by cantor)

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Trentham

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: (10:00) *Allegro (Concerto Grosso in A minor)*

Antonio Vivaldi (Italy, 1678-1741)
transcribed for organ by J.S. Bach

The Service is Ended, Go in Peace.