



First Presbyterian Church

OF LAKE FOREST

May 3, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter

REFLECTION

O God, empty me of angry judgments, and aching disappointments, and anxious trying, and breathe into me something like quietness and confidence, that the lion and the lamb in me may lie down together and be led by a trust as straightforward as a little child. Catch my pride and doubt off guard that, at least for the moment, I may sense your presence and your caring, and be surprised by a sudden joy rising in me know to sustain me in the coming then.

-Sustain Me in the Coming Then, Ted Loder, Guerrillas of Grace

PRELUDE

Variations on VICTORY

Alan Bullard, 2015

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sisters and brothers, let us gather together with glad and generous hearts.

People: For many signs and wonders are being done among us.

Leader: Let us break bread together and share our lives in common.

People: Let us give what we can to all who have needs so that all people, no matter who they are, may regard us with good will.

Leader: Let us devote ourselves to our prayers and to the gospel.

People: For in this way God will add to our numbers every day.



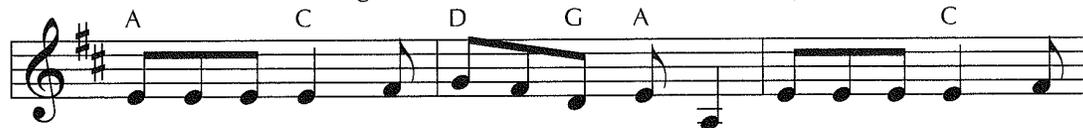
1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

CALL to CONFESSION

Inasmuch as God is our shepherd, let us not fear, but confess our sin that God may restore our soul.

PRAYER of CONFESSION (UNISON)

Holy One, we confess to you and to one another that we have not always followed Christ's example. When we have been abused, we have been abusive in return. We have gone astray. Lead us back into your fold, and guard our souls in Jesus' name. Amen.

(time for silent confession)

DECLARATION of FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, the promise of our faith is that if we entrust ourselves to the One who judges justly, we need not feel threatened, for we will be returned to righteousness. Having been brought back into the safety of God's fold, let us share our peace with one another.

People: Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE

The Strife is O'er

Tune: VICTORY

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*The strife is o'er, the battle done, the victory of life is won
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Leader: Loving God, we pray that your Holy Spirit will strengthen us to be devoted to the teachings of your Word, that through it we may hear your voice and follow it into eternal life.

All: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul;
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
For his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For thou art with me;
Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
Thou anointest my head with oil; My cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Sharing, Now and Then

Rev. Kristie W. Finley

OFFERING*

Church, our God has prepared a table before us and our cup overflows. So let us give generously from our common wealth, as our way of praising God and giving to those in need.

PRESENTATION of OUR TITHES and OFFERINGS

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING and DEDICATION

Holy and generous God, you have anointed us and we are yours. Bless these tithes and offerings that they may become green pastures and still waters for all who need your comfort and restoration.

SHARING of OUR JOYS and CONCERNS

GATHERING SONG No 507

Come to the Table of Grace

Tune: TABLE OF GRACE

Come to the ta - ble of grace. _____ Come to the

ta - ble of grace. _____ This is God's ta - ble; it's

not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace. _____

Text and Music: Barbara Hamm
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CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

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.

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Closing Prayer

HYMN OF SENDING No 246

Christ Is Alive!

Tune: TRURO

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1995
 MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778
 Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

TRURO
 LM

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Two Toccatas for Eastertide (TRURO, O FILII ET FILIAE)

Michael Bedford
and Lynwood Farnum

*To give online or fulfill your pledge: FirstChurchLF.org/give

*To give to our COVID-19 Fund: FirstChurchLF.org/give/covid-fund-donations

*For information on our Mission Food Depot: FirstChurchLF.org/mission-food-depot

Pastor Kristie's day off is on Thursday. Pastor Clint's day off is on Friday.