



First Presbyterian Church

OF LAKE FOREST

May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Gracious God,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break
and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ
that we may be one with all who share this feast,
united in ministry in every place.
As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the word.

PRELUDE **Meditation on "The Church of Christ in Every Age"** arr. William H. Bates, 1971

THE WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalm 22

Leader: All you who fear the Lord, praise him!
For God does not despise our afflictions or hide his face from us.

People: **God hears when we cry out to God; those who seek God shall praise the Lord.
May our hearts live forever!**

*Please stand if you are able.

***HYMN OF PRAISE, No. 619**

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

Tune: LAUDA ANIMA

(Please refrain from singing aloud in the sanctuary.)

*Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven;
who, like me, should sing God's praise?*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise the Maker all your days!

*Praise God for the grace and favor
shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing our Maker's faithfulness!

*Like a loving parent caring,
God knows well our feeble frame,
gladly all our burdens bearing,
still to countless years the same.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

All within me, praise God's name!

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***CALL TO CONFESSION**

The cares of this life weigh us down, and we seek escape more than insight, avoidance rather than confrontation with God's truth. God comes to us even when we are hiding from the best we know. God waits to hear our story and to restore us to life as it is meant to be. Let us come to God in prayer.

*Please stand if you are able.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of light, who shines in deepest darkness, we hear you calling us out of hopelessness into hope. But we are frightened by your call. We are afraid of taking chances; we are afraid of following your light, because it leads us into the places where you need us. We don't want to see how your people hurt. We don't want to see your light shining in the eyes of our neighbor. Yet we know that in those places your grace shines; help us to seek your light. Guide us in your way, that we might be your children of day. Through the Light of the World, we pray. Amen.

SUNG INVOCATION, No. 288

Spirit of the Living God

Tune: LIVING GOD

(Please refrain from singing aloud in the sanctuary.)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: God is light! In God there is no darkness! Arise! Shine! Our Light awaits!

People: We are forgiven. Our future awaits us with hope. We will walk in the light of God's grace! Alleluia! Amen!

***SUNG RESPONSE, No. 582** **Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me** TUNE: GLORY TO GOD

(Please refrain from singing aloud in the sanctuary.)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

*Please stand if you are able.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Thomas Strong

Nourish us, O God, with your word of life. Bring us to our senses so your purposes may be apparent to us. Take away both the uncertainty and the arrogance on our views of ourselves. We would rejoice with our sisters and brothers who are finding new life. Grant that we may hear your music and be freed to join in the dancing. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-11

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to you, O Christ.

MEDITATION**“Grapes of Joy”**

Rev. Clinton G. Roberts

OFFERING**Draw us in the Spirit’s Tether**

Harold Friedell, 1957

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

*Please stand if you are able.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

GATHERING SONG

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. _____

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THE INVITATION

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.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, PETITION, AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

*Please stand if you are able.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

All who trust in Jesus are invited to share in the Lord's Supper. Please come forward as you are able to receive (without contact) the Bread and Cup. If you are physically unable, please let us know. After receiving the Elements, you may partake of them as you return to your seat.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Beautiful Savior

arr. Flor Peeters, 1960

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN OF SENDING, No. 494

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

TUNE: QUEBEC

(Please refrain from singing aloud in the sanctuary.)

*Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts,
thou fount of life, thou light of all,
from the best bliss that earth imparts
we turn, unfilled, to heed thy call.*

*We taste thee, O thou living bread,
and long to feast upon thee still;
we drink of thee, the fountainhead,
and thirst our souls from thee to fill.*

*O Jesus, ever with us stay;
make all our moments calm and bright.
O chase the night of sin away;
shed o'er the world thy holy light.*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fantasy on "Christ Is Risen"

arr. Healey Willan, 1958

*Please stand if you are able.

NOTES:

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

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

Worship Participants

Rev. Clinton Roberts, Senior Pastor

Rev. Kristie Finley, Associate Pastor

Jim Cochrane, Director of Youth Ministries

Sarah Seccombe, Director of Children's Ministries

Dr. Tom Tropp, Director of Music and Arts

Dr. Barry Wenger, Director of Bell Choirs and Organist

Susan Noble, Director of Children's Music

Choral Scholars

AV Support: Aaron Helms, Will & Peter Elliott

Thomas Strong, Liturgist



First Presbyterian Church
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