



"Celebration" by John August Swanson

A Service for the Worship of God
Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

PREPARATION

- *Please set out a candle that you can light as we light the Christ Candle during worship.*
- *For communion, please have a cup of juice and a piece of any kind of bread for each person.*
- *We hope you will sing along to the hymns.*

Gathering Around God's Word

Prelude

Jim Pera

Welcome and Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Laura Nile

Call to Worship

One Today is a new day!

All: We come with the past behind us and the future open.

One: In Jesus Christ, there is new life!

In seeds and buds, in compassion and kindness, we see hope dawning.

**All: We will embrace the gift of life with gratitude to God
that overflows in acts of love
for our neighbors around the corner and around the world.**

1 I greet thee, who my sure Re-deem-er art,
 2 Thou art the King of mer-cy and of grace,
 3 Thou art the life, by which a-lone we live,
 4 Thou hast the true and per-fect gen-tle-ness;
 5 Our hope is in no oth-er save in thee;

my on-ly trust and Sav-ior of my heart,
 reign-ing om-ni-po-tent in ev-ery place:
 and all our sub-stance and our strength re-ceive;
 no harsh-ness hast thou and no bit-ter-ness.
 our faith is built up-on thy prom-ise free;

who pain didst un-der-go for my poor sake;
 so come, O King, and our whole be-ing sway;
 sus-tain us by thy faith and by thy power,
 O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
 Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,

I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.
 shine on us with the light of thy pure day.
 and give us strength in ev-ery try-ing hour.
 that we may dwell in per-fect u-ni-ty.
 that in thy strength we ev-er-more en-dure.

Prayer of Adoration and Praise (*In Unison*)

Gracious God of new life and new hope, we come to worship you with joyful song and praise. We thank you for your presence among us and in your whole Creation. Live in us that we might live in you. Fill us with the Spirit of the living Christ, that by truthful words, just actions and shared life, we may witness to the power of your love. Form us into a holy community of your own people, molding us by the breath of your Spirit and revealing among us the face of Christ. Amen.

Celtic Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.
Je - sus we praise you as Lord; All of the earth gives you
glo - ry for your ma - jes-ty — fills the hea-ven, fills the earth.

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Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Laura Nile

Scripture Reading

Leviticus 19: 9-18

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.

You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD. You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning.

You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Anthem

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

by Peter Scholtes
Ruth Whatley, soloist

Children's Time

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

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.

Sermon

“Called to Build Community”

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Responding to God’s Word

*Hymn # 288

“Spirit of the Living God”

sing twice

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

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

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Presentation of Offerings

If you would like to give online, please go to www.sminster.com/give where you can give once or set-up a reoccurring monthly offering to the church.

(The organist will play the verse once. Then, we will sing it.)

Now let the heavens be joyful,
 Let earth the song begin,
 Let the round world keep triumph,
 And all that is therein;
 Let all things seen and unseen
 Their notes of gladness blend,
 For Christ the Lord is risen,
 Our joy that hath no end.

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to The Table

*Hymn # 498

“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”

omit verse 2



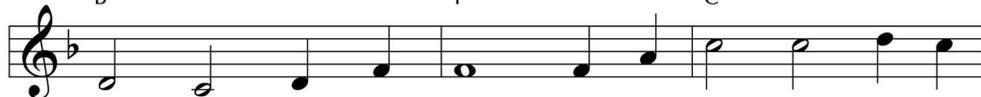
1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the Gal - i -
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a qui - et
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in faith we
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us in your

(D) (Bm)
 F Dm



le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of Life from heav - en, was their
 room one night. In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ, you
 gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the a - ges: “I am
 name to share bread for which the mil - lions hun - ger, words that

(G) (D) (A)
 B^b F C



food for - ev - er - more.
 came as Light from Light. By your bod - y bro - ken
 with you; do not fear!”
 tell your love and care.

(Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)
 Dm Am Dm B^b C F



for us, by your wine of life out-poured, Je - sus, feed a -

(Bm) (G) (D)
 Dm B^b F



gain your peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Breaking of the Bread and Lifting of the Cup

If we were in the same room, we would be serving each other, but today, each of you will serve yourselves or a family member.

After Pastor Nancy says, “The Body of Christ, given for you,” serve a family member (or, if alone, serve yourself), saying the same words.

When Pastor Laura says, “The Cup of the New Covenant, given for you,” do the same.

The bread broken and the cup poured by the pastors symbolizes our unity as the Body of Christ in this sacrament.

Prayer After Communion and the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Laura Nile

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.

Hymn # 767

“Together We Serve”

all verses

*Join us in singing the hymn
on the next page.*

Together We Serve

767

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm7)
 B^b F Gm Dm7

1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,
 2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,
 3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,
 4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,

(C) (G) (Am7) (Dsus) (D)
 E^b B^b Cm7 Fsus F

in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.
 a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
 the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.
 re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.

(G) (D) (C) (Bm)
 B^b F E^b Dm

We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,
 We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
 We of - fer a home to those who will come,
 To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,

(G) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)
 B^b E^b B^b Cm F7 B^b

ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.
 un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.
 our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.
 re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

Benediction

Postlude