

St. John's United Church of Christ

Easter Tides

“The Tides of Reconciliation, Forgiveness, and Grace”



Third Sunday of Easter
April 18, 2021

The Rev. Roben Roof, Pastor
Barb Koons, Secretary

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Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to St. John's worship service whether you are a member or visiting us today. Thank you for taking the time to worship out of your busy week. God loves you, desires your praises, and love-filled responses turned into actions of love for others. We know that these are unusual times, but we trust that you will feel connected to God and to others through this time of worship. Please let us know that you participated with us in worship by placing a note in the comment section in YouTube or on the Attendance Pad Link.

We have begun Eastertide, the weeks after Easter. Eastertide is a festal season in the liturgical year of Christianity that focuses on celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let us worship as Easter people filled with hope, for Christ lives again. Hallelujah!

A Time of Remembrance

Remember these words,

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

Centering Prayer

Grace-filled God: With grateful hearts we welcome you on this Third Sunday of Easter, joyously repeating the ancient Christian greeting: "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!!" Accept now, we Pray, our homage for the forgiveness and the promise of newness, in this life and beyond, which in your amazing grace, you extend to us. Renew our minds and hearts as we worship you today. Amen.

WE GATHER AS EASTER PEOPLE

Prelude

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

By Harry Fosdick

Call to Worship

One: Something deep inside us calls us,

All: Beckons us

One: We are looking for truth

All: That anchors us in the midst of competing voices.

One: We are searching for life

All: That sparkles with joy and glows with warmth.

One: We are finding our way

All: To Christ, to community, to love.

One: And we are bold to sing

All: A resurrection song.

Opening Song

"Amazing Grace"

By John Newton

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind but now I see

Was Grace that taught my heart to fear
And Grace, my fears relieved

How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
We have already come
T'was Grace that brought us safe thus far
And Grace will lead us home
And Grace will lead us home

Call to Confession

We are redeemed people and always forgiven, so let us confess our shortcomings.

Prayer of Confession

O God of transformation, where we have been fearful and doubting, bring new life. Where we have been hard-hearted and unforgiving, bring new life. Where we have sown discord and wounded others,

bring new life. Where we have been selfish and greedy, bring new life. Where we have been tired and confused, bring new life. Amen.

Words of Assurance

There is new life, and you are loved today and every day!

Song of Response

“Come O Fount of Every Blessing”

O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bid my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

WE LISTEN AS EASTER PEOPLE

Children's Message

“Do Overs ”

Pastor Roben

Song of Preparation

“Thy Word”

By Amy Grant

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
(2x's Only)

Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

Dawn Eisenhauer

Lector: Let us hear the word of God.

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

Lector: God is still speaking.

All: Spread the Good News!

SERMON

“The Tides of Reconciliation, Forgiveness, and Grace”

Pastor Roben Roof

WE RESPOND AS EASTER PEOPLE

Time of Reflection

(Use this time to reflect on the message and if there is an invitation from God.)

Song of Response

“Reconciliation Song”

By Light of the World

Oh, let us be a generation of reconciliation and peace
And let us be a holy nation
Where pride and prejudice shall cease

Have we not one Father?
Have we not one faith?
Have we not one calling to become one Holy race?

Let us speak the truth in love
To the lost and least of these
And let serve the Lord in unity so others will believe
Let us be a generation of reconciliation and peace

Let us be a generation of reconciliation and peace
And let us pray for restoration And seek the Lord
together on our knees

Oh, let us be a generation of reconciliation and peace
And let us build on one foundation
Till He comes and the wars of men shall cease

Let us keep our hearts from evil
And cling to what is good
Let us honor one another and love the brotherhood
Let us be a generation of reconciliation and peace

Let us share the Love of Jesus without hypocrisy Let
mercy and forgiveness begin with you and me
Let us be a generation of reconciliation and peace

Prayers of the People

Lord God in heaven, today we gather as your people in worship in spirit and truth. We celebrate your life in us and celebrate your body, the church. Help us to reflect your love for us with the love we have for each other. It is with great joy that we come before you today, joined by your Spirit. Thank you for your love and mercy shown to us. Thank you that we can comfort another with the same love and mercy that has comforted us. Praise be to you, our Shepherd. We are your people, the sheep of your pasture. Help us today to understand more fully and to give you praise...We pray for...and now praying the prayer that you taught us...

Our Lord's Prayer

All: 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Song of Response

"Because He Lives"
(St. John's Facebook Archives)

By Bill Gaither

Chorus:

**Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!**

Invitation to Give

Freely you have received, freely give.

Offering Song of Response

"He is Lord"
**He is Lord! He is Lord!
He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!**

Arranged by Tom Fettke

Offertory Prayer

In gratitude for all that we have been given, we give our gifts to thee, O God. May what we give bring comfort to one who is sorrowful, food to one who is hungry, kindness to one who is world-weary, warmth to one who lives without shelter, and hope to those who long for the touch of your mercy. We know our gifts make this possible for in our giving, we give ourselves – through Christ our Lord, who makes all things possible. Amen.

WE GO TO SERVE AS EASTER PEOPLE

Sending Song

"Grace Alone"

By Scott Wesley Brown and Jeff Nelson

Every promise we can make, Every prayer and step of faith, Every difference we can make
Is only by His grace, Every mountain we will climb, Every ray of hope we shine
Every blessing left behind, Is only by His grace

Grace alone, Which God supplies, Strength unknown
He will provide, Christ in us, Our cornerstone, We will go forth in grace alone

Every soul we long to reach, Every heart we hope to teach, Everywhere we share His peace
Is only by His grace, Every loving word we say, Every tear we wipe away
Every sorrow turned to praise, Is only by His grace

Grace alone, Which God supplies, Strength unknown, He will provide, Christ in us, Our cornerstone
We will go forth in grace alone, We will go forth in grace alone (we will go forth in grace alone)

Sending Forth

Pastor: As the Father has loved you, go now and love. As the Son has forgiven and redeemed you, go now, extending grace to all you meet. As the Spirit has transformed you into the likeness of the Son, go now, letting the life of Christ guide you each moment of the day. Go now, in love, with grace and in the light of Jesus.

All: We serve all of God's people by sharing the love of Christ and ministering to our community.

Postlude

“Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone”

By Chris Tomlin

Thank you to the following volunteers for this week’s virtual worship service:

Dawn Eisenhauer Lector

Larry Miller, Website & Worship Streaming

Ron Royer, Worship Conference Calls & Sound

Peggy Miller, Facebook administrator

Thank you for joining us for worship today! To our On-Line Worshippers, please do not forget to sign into the Worship Attendance Pad.

<http://bit.ly/jonestownuccat>

Share pastoral needs, prayer requests, how the worship service met your needs, and any feedback.

While we practice social distancing, remain connected. Give someone in the church a call this week and tell them how much you appreciate them and say “Thank You!”. Click link [Send an eCard to uplift someone today!](#)

CREDITS

ShareFaith.com: Image transitions

WorshipHouseMedia.com: “Amazing Grace: My Chains are Gone”

Homiletics Online: Liturgies

You Tube: “Come O Fount of Every Blessing”, “He is Lord”,
“Reconciliation Song”, “Forgiveness”, God of Grace and God of Glory”, and “Grace Alone”.

Maranatha Music “Thy Word”

St. John’s Facebook Archives: “Because He Lives” and “Amazing Grace”.

Feast on the Word: Liturgies

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