

# Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God at 11:00 a.m.

May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

## The Bell Calls Us to Worship

**Prelude** Thy Word Is Like a Garden, Lord Tune: Clonmel  
Irish tune; arr. by Anna Laura Page

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 455** All Creatures of Our God and King Lasst Uns Erfreuen

## Easter Greeting

**Pastor:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**People:** **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.  
**People:** **And also with you.**  
**Pastor:** Let us pray.

**Prayer for the Day** (spoken by the pastor; the congregation joining the **Amen**.)  
O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond our understanding.  
Pour into our hearts such love for you, that, loving you above all else, we may obtain  
your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**An Affirmation of Faith for Easter** Heidelberg Catechism, 1563

**Pastor:** What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**Unison:** **That I belong, body and soul, in life and in death,  
not to myself, but to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ,  
who at the cost of his own blood, has fully paid for all my sins  
and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil;  
that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven  
not a hair can fall from my head.**

**Indeed, everything must fit his purpose for my salvation.**

**Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life  
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready  
from now on to live for him.**

**Pastor:** The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## **Passing of the Peace**

(Worshippers safely greet one another with the peace of Christ and then sit for the announcements.)

## **Welcome, Announcements, and a Word to Children**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

#### **First Lesson**

Acts 10:44-48

#### **Psalm 98**

Unison

**O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.**

**His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.**

**The Lord has made known his victory;**

**He has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

**He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.**

**All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;**

**break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

**Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,**

**with the lyre and the sound of melody.**

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn**

**make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

**Let the sea roar and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.**

**Let the floods clap their hands;**

**let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord,**

**for he is coming to judge the earth.**

**He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.**

**Musical Meditation** Blessed Be the Name/O for a Thousand Tongues

arr. Stan Bethel, 1998

Bob Vawter, trombone; Susan Steppe, piano

#### **Epistle**

1 John 5:1-6

The congregation stands to sing

#### **Hymn 293**

This Is My Father's World

Terra Beata

The congregation sits.

#### **Gospel**

John 15:9-17

## Sermon

Love's Commands

Mike Krech

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

John 15:12

The congregation stands to sing

## Hymn 358

Help Us Accept Each Other

Baronita

## Apostles' Creed

Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

## Gloria for Easter Season

Refrain of Hymn 122

Judas Maccabeus

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son.

Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.

The congregation sits.

## Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors) Unison; Hymnal, page 16, Traditional

## Offertory Sentence

Offertory Love One Another/O the Great, Great Love of Jesus

Tune: Ebenezer; Welsh. Thomas John Williams

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology for Easter Season (to the tune of Hymn 455) Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## Benediction

## Hymn 473

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

The congregation is encouraged to be seated for the postlude,  
or you may depart the sanctuary quickly and quietly now if you need to.

## Postlude

To God Be the Glory (Doane)

arr. Don Hustad

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today is the sixth Sunday of the season of Easter, which extends through the Great Fifty Days from Easter Day to Pentecost (April 4 – May 23, 2021). This joyful season of resurrection victory is celebrated in worship through our hymns, the Gloria and Doxology for the season, and an affirmation of faith in place of a prayer of confession. It has long been common to omit confession of sin during the Easter season as an expression of the absolute victory over sin won for us by the Risen Lord. Another practice in Easter season is reading the first lesson from the Book of Acts. This fifth book of the New Testament, written by Luke, author of the third Gospel, records the spread of faith in the Risen Christ. Today's hymns reflect another theme for the sixth Sunday of Easter: Rogation Days, the three weekdays prior to Ascension Day, which were given to prayer for a fruitful season of planting and harvest. Three of our hymns today celebrate God's creation of and care for the world.

(JMK)