

Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God at 11:00 a.m.

May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Prelude in C

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 118

The Day of Resurrection

Lancashire

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, form the minds of your people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, 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 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

Unison

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek him shall praise the Lord.

May your hearts live forever.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

To him indeed shall who sleep in the earth bow down.

Before him shall bow down all who go down to the dust.

And I shall live for him.

Posterity shall serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

Musical Meditation

How Great Thou Art (Tune: O Store Gud)

Swedish folk song; arr. Arthur Frackenhohl, 2007

Rickie Cooke, baritone horn; Susan Steppe, piano

Gospel

John 15:1-8

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 418

God Bless Your Church with Strength!

Diademata

This hymn text at 418 is sung to the suggested alternate tune Diademata,

best known as the tune to Crown Him with Many Crowns

The congregation sits.

Epistle

1 John 4:7-21

Sermon

God Is Love, Seriously

Mike Krech

"God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ... There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, ... whoever fears has not reached perfection in love."

1 John 4:16b, 18a,c

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 385 O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face Song 1

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 I Am the Vine Knowles Shaw, 1877

"I am the vine and ye are the branches," bear precious fruit for Jesus today; branches in Him no fruit ever bearing, Jesus hath said, "He taketh away." *I am the vine and ye are the branches; I am the vine, be faithful and true; Ask what ye will, your prayer shall be granted; The Father loved Me, So I have loved you.*"

Now ye are clean through words I have spoken, Living in Me, much fruit ye shall bear; Dwelling in you, my promise unbroken, glory in heav'n with Me ye shall share. Yes, by your fruits the world is to know you, walking in love as children of day; follow your Guide, He passeth before you, leading to realms of glorious day.
Sung by Bob Vawter

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 376 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling Hyfrydol

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 On the tune Lancashire Henry Smart, c. 1835; arr. David H. Lowe

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today is the fifth 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.
(JMK)