Seventh Sunday of Easter May 21, 2023

Gathering God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (Time for Silent Preparation)

Call to Worship (Responsively)

Hob Pusey

The earth is the Lord's, for he made it:

Come, let us adore him.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

Come, let us adore him.

The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

Come, let us adore him.

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Invocation (Responsively)

Hob Pusey

O God, you summon the day to dawn, you teach the morning to waken the earth.

For you the valleys shall sing for joy, the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

For you the kings of the earth shall bow, the poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy.

Your love and mercy shall last forever, fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.

Great is your name.

Great is your love. Amen.

Praise Song Blessed Be Your Name

Blessed be Your name In the land that is plentiful Where Your streams of abundance flow Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name When I'm found in the desert place Though I walk through the wilderness Blessed be Your name Pre-Chorus
Ev'ry blessing You pour out
I'll Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord
Still I will say

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name When the sun's shining down on me When the world's all as it should be Blessed be Your name

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

Bridge (x2)
You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord blessed be Your name

Chorus (x2)

Confessing God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

Hob Pusey

We cannot come before God unless we are first honest with ourselves about who we are, about the mistakes we make, and about how well or poorly we care for others. In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

Prayer of Confession (Responsively)

Hob Pusey

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hob Pusey

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, Is now and ever shall be, world without end. A-men, A-men.

<u>Offering</u>

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy.

With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love. With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

Offering

Offertory Special Music – Donna Jackman

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

Prayer of Dedication

We are not our own; we belong to you. You have created us and given us life anew, O God, our Creator, Savior, and Sustainer.

We extend our arms and open our hands to present our offerings to you.

We make these gestures to display outwardly our hearts' overflowing gratitude for all your gifts.

Receive these gifts from us, O Triune God, and through them bring life and hope to many. In the name of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

¶ Hymn 52

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

<u>Proclaiming</u> God speaks to us through His Word

Children's Sermon Love is what Love does Dennis Lesher

Scripture Reading 1 John 3:11-18

¹¹ For this is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another, ¹² unlike Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters. The one who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. ¹⁶ This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God's love reside in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth.

Sermon

"Live in Love" Rev. Tim Latham

Praise Song

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Jesus I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow Thee Destitute, despised, forsaken Thou from hence my all shalt be Perish every fond ambition, All I've sought or hoped or known Yet how rich is my condition, God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me They have left my savior too Human hearts and looks deceive me, Thou art not like them untrue Oh while thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love and might Foes may hate and friends disown me, Show thy face and all is bright.

Man they trouble and distress me, Twill but drive me to thy breast Life with trials hard may press me, Heaven will bring me sweeter rest Oh 'tis not in grief to harm me, While thy love is left to me Oh 'twere not in joy to charm me, Were that joy unmixed with thee.

Go then earthly fame and treasure, Come disaster, scorn and pain In thy service pain is pleasure, With thy favor loss is gain I have called thee Abba Father, I have stayed my heart on thee Storms may howl and clouds may gather, All must work for good to me.

Soul then know thy full salvation Rise o'er sin and fear and care Joy to find in every station, Something still to do or bear Think what Spirit dwells within thee, Think what Father's smiles are thine Think that Jesus died to win thee, Child of heaven, canst thou repine.

Haste thee on from grace to glory, Armed by faith and winged by prayer Heaven's eternal day's before thee, God's own hand shall guide thee there Soon shall close thy earthly mission, Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days Hope shall change to glad fruition, Faith to sight and prayer to praise.

Responding We respond to God's Word

Profession of Faith (Psalm 46)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;

God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.
"Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."
The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Prayers of the People

<u>Commissioning</u> God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

Hymn 286

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Benediction & Blessing

This morning's Prayer Partner is Carolyn Thompson, Don Titus

Postlude