

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter – April 28, 2024

Responsive Call to Worship

Like spring breaking through winter's power,
God's resurrecting power breaks into our lives in surprising ways.

Like the vine that supports blossoms and fruit, God's Word upholds the church in strength.

Like an attentive gardener, God tends the needs of all creation.

Let us worship God who makes all things new.

We will praise our God who brings growth to each and every life.

Hymn 410 Joyful, joyful we adore you

**1. Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!**

**2. All your works with joy surround you;
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain
join to praise you joyfully.**

**3. You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blessed,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
God Creator, Christ our Saviour,
all are yours who live in love.**

**Teach us how to love our neighbour,
Lift us to your joy above.**

**4. Morning stars, awake the chorus,
mortals join in every part,
for what joy is set before us
as Christ's love joins heart to heart!
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.**

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 115 **Hail to the Lord's Anointed**

**1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son;
hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.**

**2. He brings salvation speedy to those who suffer wrong;
he saves the poor and needy, and helps the weak be strong;
they sing who once were sighing, their darkness turned to
light,
for they, who once were dying, are precious in his sight.**

**3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.**

**4. All powers shall bow before him, and gold and incense
bring;
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing,
for he shall have dominion o'er river, sea and shore,
far as the eagle's pinion or dove's light wing can soar.**

**5. O'er every foe victorious, Christ on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest:
the tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever: that name to us is Love.**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

God of Love, we fail to love and one another fully. Forgive us for ignoring to love and worship you, for ignoring the needs of others, and not following your ways. Forgive us for seeking praise from others, yet failing to encourage them in their endeavours. Forgive who we have been, O God, and root our lives more deeply in your love.

- silent confession -

The Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)

**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, the power, and the glory. For ever
and ever. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (minister)

Hymn 706 Come, let us sing

**1. Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and true;
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.**

**2. Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame:
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.**

**3. Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
why do they roam? why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
home, weary wanderers, home:
wonderful love, wonderful love**

dwells in the heart of the Father above.

**4. Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love;
come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be, seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.**

Responsive Reading Psalm 22:25-31 p. 474 NT & Psalms

²⁵ I will praise you in the great assembly.

I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

²⁶ The poor will eat and be satisfied.

All who seek the Lord will praise him.

Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy.

²⁷ The whole earth will acknowledge the Lord and return to him.

All the families of the nations will bow down before him.

²⁸ For royal power belongs to the Lord.

He rules all the nations.

²⁹ Let the rich of the earth feast and worship.

Bow before him, all who are mortal,

all whose lives will end as dust.

³⁰ Our children will also serve him.

**Future generations will hear about the wonders of the
Lord.**

³¹ His righteous acts will be told to those not yet born.

They will hear about everything he has done.

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Acts 8:26-40 p. 219 New Testament & Psalms

1 John 4:7-21 p. 418 New Testament & Psalms

John 15:1-8 p. 188 New Testament & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Why wait??

Prayers of the People (minister)

Hymn 297 O love that casts out fear

1. O love that casts out fear,

**O love that casts out sin,
tarry no more without,
but come and dwell within.**

**2. True sunlight of the soul,
surround us as we go;
so shall our way be safe,
our feet no straying know.**

**3. Great love of God, come in!
Wellspring of heavenly peace,
thou living water, come:
spring up and never cease.**

**4. Love of the living God,
of Father and of Son,
love of the Holy Ghost,
fill thou each needy one.**

Offering & Offertory

***Doxology 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer of Dedication (congregation)

**Generous God, we bless you for your gift of life renewed
through Christ's love. Bless the gifts we offer so they renew
hope in the world you love, in the name of your greatest gift,
Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.**

Hymn 569 O Jesus, I have promised

**1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the struggle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.**

2. Oh let me feel thee near me:

the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within,
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

3. Oh let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
oh speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
oh speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

4. O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be,
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
oh give me grace to follow
my Saviour and my friend.

Choral Blessing

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will be with you each hour of every day.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude