

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 5, 2024

Responsive Call to Worship

Let us sing to the Lord a new song,

for God has done marvellous things.

Let us make known the Lord's victory,

for God's steadfast love covers the whole earth.

Let us sing joyful praises,

and join all creation to worship God's holy name.

Hymn 65 All people that on earth do dwell

**1. All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth; his praise forth tell.
Come ye before him and rejoice.**

**2. Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his flock, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.**

**3. Oh enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.**

**4. For why, the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 240 Rock of ages, cleft for me

**1. Rock of ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure:
cleanse me from its guilt and power.**

**2. Not the labours of my hands
can fulfil thy law's demands;**

could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.

3. Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to thy cross I cling:
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Saviour, or I die.

4. While I draw this fleeting breath,
when my eyelids close in death,
when I soar through tracts unknown,
see thee on thy judgement throne,
rock of ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

Merciful God, we confess it can be hard to love others as you commanded. We intend to do your will, but our priorities lead us in other directions.

We seek our own security forgetting about others'. We fulfill our own desires forgetting the common good. We justify our own interests and forget the cost they take on the earth and other people.

Forgive us. Remind us of our priorities and our commitment to live out your love even when it demands more of us than we expect or want to give.

- 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.

Hymn 638 Take time to be holy

1. Take time to be holy; speak oft with thy Lord.
Abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children; help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.
2. Take time to be holy; the world rushes on;
spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be;
thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.
3. Take time to be holy; let him be thy guide,
and run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow thy Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.
4. Take time to be holy; be calm in thy soul,
each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his Spirit to fountains of love,
thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 98

p. 546 NT & Psalms

- ¹ Sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has done wonderful deeds.
His right hand has won a mighty victory;
his holy arm has shown his saving power!
- ²The Lord has announced his victory
and has revealed his righteousness to every nation!**
- ³ He has remembered his promise to love and be faithful to Israel.
The ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- ⁴ Shout to the Lord, all the earth;
break out in praise and sing for joy!**
- ⁵ Sing your praise to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and melodious song,
**⁶ with trumpets and the sound of the ram's horn.
Make a joyful symphony before the Lord, the King!**
- ⁷ Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise!
Let the earth and all living things join in.
- ⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands in glee!
Let the hills sing out their songs of joy**

⁹ before the Lord,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with justice,
and the nations with fairness.

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Acts 10:44–48 p. 221 New Testament & Psalms

1 John 5:1–6 p. 419 New Testament & Psalms

John 15:9–17 p. 189 New Testament & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Is that a command?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Hymn 373 Jesus loves me, this I know

**1. Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so,
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.**

Refrain:

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**2. Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me."**

Refrain:

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**3. Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give
Light and love to all who live**

Refrain:

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

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 us and the gifts we bring, so that the renewal we have found in Christ can be shared throughout our community and in the world you love, in his holy name. Amen.

Hymn 371 Love divine, all loves excelling

**1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.**

**Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

**2. Breathe, oh breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!**

**Let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest;
take away our love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.**

**3. Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return and never,
never more thy temples leave.**

**Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**4. Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly re stored in thee,
changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.**

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