



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

May 14, 2023 – 11:00 am

Sixth Sunday of Easter



Adapted from "pour," Jenny Downing

Therefore, since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Welcome to our service of worship. Although we are worshipping in a variety of locations, we still affirm that God is present in our worship, whether in-person or virtually. Our prayer is that all who worship with us this day will truly feel the presence of God in this time. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here! Parts of today's liturgy are from Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill, Fire and Bread: Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2006); and Ruth Burgess, Summer: Liturgical Resources for May, June and July including Eastertide and Pentecost (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2020).

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #469:** *Morning Has Broken*

ELEANOR FARJEON

Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!

***OPENING SENTENCES**

"OPENING AND CLOSING RESPONSES FOR EASTERTIDE," RUTH BURGESS

Come and hear
the good news of God

Come and see
what Jesus has done

We will tell the story of God in our world
we will share the secret of hope in our lives

Come and explore the truth of the gospel
come and receive the Holy Spirit of God

Let us worship our God.

***SONG OF ADORATION #243** (*Glory to God*): *Be Not Afraid* (sung 2x)

TAIZE COMMUNITY

Be not afraid; sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid; sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!

LITANY OF PRAISE

"GOD HAS MADE LAUGHTER FOR US," DAVID COLEMAN

Christ is risen; He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Risen in quiet and mysterious darkness before the chorus of the dawn.
Alleluia, Christ is risen! ***He is risen indeed!***

Risen with glory and grace in reserve, and authority beyond measure.
Alleluia, Christ is risen! ***He is risen indeed!***

Risen to prove violence is no solution; to offer us peace and life in all its fullness.
Alleluia, Christ is risen! ***He is risen indeed!***

For God has taken into his own flesh the sin of the world.
The last laugh is God's laugh; God has the last laugh:
For freedom comes beyond the cross,
for peace comes beyond the violence,
for friendship comes beyond the betrayal.
For life comes beyond the crushing of life.

The first laugh and the last laugh are God's.
And God has made laughter for us.
Alleluia, Christ is risen! ***He is risen indeed!***

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God,
by your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 11:28-30

PEW BIBLE, 1184

ROMANS 3:28-30; 5:1-11

PEW BIBLE, 1372; 1373

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY #428:** *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

WILLIAM WALSHAM HOW

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

***BLESSING OUR GIFTS**

***HYMN OF THE DAY #356** *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

ROBERT ROBINSON

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"YOU FATHER AND MOTHER US," JOHN HARVEY

Loving God, you father us and mother us all our days. Even before we acknowledged you, you loved us; you labored to bring us to birth, new birth, and how joyful for you was that birthing. In the secret places of our lives, you nourish us, offering us the feeding that we need to grow as human beings.

***No matter how often
we desert you
you never turn your face away from us,
and your abiding concern
is always for our good.
You weep for us,
you laugh with us,
you rejoice in our successes
and are in anguish at our pain.***

Yours are the arms
reaching out to cradle us
when we collapse in death.

Loving, mothering God,
strong and tender,
tried and true,
we worship you today.

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

I proclaim to you in the name of our mothering God that:

You are enough.

You are forgiven.

You are loved.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *He is Lord* (Choir will sing first, then congregation)

He is Lord! He is Lord!

He is risen from the dead and He is Lord.

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Embrace the Cross*

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Romerbrief 2"*

REV. PHILLIPS

EASTERTIDE PRAYER

"ARISE, O GOD," NATHAN WILLIAMS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

... Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #438:** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

JOHN FAWCETT

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.

***SENDING**

"OPENING AND CLOSING RESPONSES FOR EASTERTIDE," RUTH BURGESS

We are loved, cherished, befriended, accepted
this is the truth

We are not alone: God's love is in us
this is the truth

God knows our hopes, our fears, our questions
this is the truth

God is leading us deep into justice and wonder
God is joyfully walking us home

CHORAL BLESSING: *Lead Me Lord*

SAMUEL WESLEY

POSTLUDE

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, May 14th - Sixth Sunday of Easter – Mother's Day

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, May 17th

6:30 – Bell/Choir Practice

Sunday, May 21st - Seventh Sunday of Easter

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

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Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

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