

MORNING WORSHIP

May 2, 2021

Half past Ten O'Clock

Fifth Sunday of Easter GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

TIME OF MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

WELCOME AND NOTICES

INTROIT

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"
Selwyn Chamber Ensemble

ABERYSTWYTH

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 139

Leader: O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You discern my thoughts from far away. We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells
our lives. We need not look up to find God, we need only to look around:

**People: within ourselves,
beyond ourselves,
into the eyes of another.**

Leader: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.
We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God, we need only listen

**People: to the music of life,
the words of children,
the questions of the curious,
the rhythm of a heartbeat.**

Leader: Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, You know it completely.

All: We worship the God who inhabits our world and who indwells our lives.

*HYMN

"To God Be the Glory"

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

**To God be the glory, great things He hath done! So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, And opened the life gate that all may go in.**

Refrain

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done.**

**Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.**

Refrain

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

inspired by Exodus 17:1-7, John 4

Leader: God of mercy, hear the prayers of Your thirsting people.
For every time we have attributed Your miracles in our lives to our own hands alone,

People: Forgive us, we pray.

Leader: For every time we promised to trust You but turned to our own way when
Your response did not come soon enough or in the way we expected,

People: Grant us mercy, O God.

Leader: For the many opportunities to extend forgiveness that we have refused,

People: Show us what it means to love, again, dear Lord.

Leader: For each way we put our own understandings above Your wisdom,

For each time we resist Your command to be reconciled with those who believe differently from us,

People: Direct us in the way of peace, we pray.

Leader: For our silent sins, our quiet acts of violence, and our indifference to the suffering around us

All: Forgive us, Loving One, and quench our thirst with Your grace; Remake us into vessels of tenderness and compassion. For Christ's sake we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 5 (selected verses)

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR WILLIAM WOOTEN PEEBLES

Emily Battle, Assisting Elder

+Invitation to Baptism

The Meaning of Baptism

Questions to the Parents and to the Congregation

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

The Apostles' Creed

Hymnal, p. 14

Prayer and the Act of Baptism

Greeting a Child of God

Leader: William Wooten Peebles is now identified as a child of God in Christ's Church. Through Baptism, God has put His seal upon Will to share with us all the benefits of Christ's sacrifice. Let us be supportive of Ty and Meg as they nurture Will and assist him to be a faithful disciple.

People: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Will into Christ's Church, for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage and support you, to share the good news of God's love with you, and to celebrate with you God's unfolding blessings.

*SUNG RESPONSE

"Jesus Love Me!"

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;

Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.

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

Jesus loves me! This I know, As He loved so long ago,

Taking children on His knee, Saying "Let them come to Me."

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 8:1-3, 18-39

SERMON

"God is for us"

Lisa McLennan

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

Text to Give

704-734-9818

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Al Shlosha D'Varim"

Allan Naplan

Translation: *The world is sustained by three things: by truth, by justice, by peace*

Selwyn Chamber Ensemble

*DOXOLOGY

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

OLD HUNDREDTH

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. Amen.

*LITANY OF DEDICATION

Leader: Blessed Lord our God for the love which You have shown us through Christ our Lord. He who loves us over hardship, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril and the sword.

All: In the silence of solitude pour out the riches of Your blessing, that we may be more faithful and joyful to serve You. We glorify You, for listening to the silence of our hearts. Your power heals us and leads us to act in the name of Jesus, Your Son. Send us into the world with Good News, breaking down walls which separate us. May we witness to Christ, being ever more united by "one faith and one baptism." May our gifts of time, treasure and talent glorify Your Name, as we seek to exhibit God's reign to the world. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

CLOSING HYMN

"Rejoice, the Lord is King"

DARWALL'S 148TH

**Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, And triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**God's kingdom cannot fail, Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell Are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge shall come
To glorify the saints for their eternal home:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

For those worshipping in the Sanctuary, please be seated after the Benediction until after the Postlude ends. Then, take caution to maintain social distance as you exit the Narthex.

*Those who are able please stand.