

May 2, 2021 Bulletin – 5th Sunday of Easter

Prelude "A Time for Joy" Glory Bells
By Cynthia Dobrinski

Call to Worship Lee Vander Esch

*Opening Hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" UMH #110

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

3. And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

4. That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours, thru him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill; God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever.

Welcome & Announcements

Musical Call to Prayer "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" FWS #2193

Lord, listen to your children praying; Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying; send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Special Music "Be Not Afraid" Ann Jacobs, Cathy Grattan,
By Craig Courtney Tom Norager, Steve Grattan
(Anthem lyrics are included at the bottom of the bulletin)

Scripture Reading 1 John 4:7-21 Lee Vander Esch

⁷ Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. ⁸ The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. ¹² No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us. ¹³ This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us, because he has given us a measure of his Spirit. ¹⁴ We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the savior of the world. ¹⁵ If any of us confess that Jesus is God's Son, God remains in us and we remain in God. ¹⁶ We have known and have believed the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them. ¹⁷ This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day, because we are exactly the same as God is in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because God first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God" and hate their brothers or sisters are liars. After all, those who don't love their brothers or sisters whom they have seen can hardly love God whom they have not seen! ²¹ This commandment we have from him: Those who claim to love God ought to love their brother and sister also.

Sermon

"Fearless Love"

Invitation to Give and Offertory

"Hearts of Gratitude"

Ann Jacobs, Cathy Grattan,

By Lloyd Larson

Steve Grattan, Tom Norager

(Anthem lyrics are included at the bottom of the bulletin)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Prayer of Confession

L: The Divine Gardener cannot sow seeds of justice and peace where there is nothing but hearts of dry, hard rocks. We confess that our hearts may need tilling and the digging out of the deeply rooted sins that crowd out seedlings planted with divine compassion. God of steadfast love, you change bitter tears of remorseful hearts with raindrops of mercy.

P: Now let us germinate a new life, growing with integrity!

L: God of steadfast love, you change the cold shame of contrite hearts with sunrays of mercy.

P: Now let us sprout a new life, growing with honesty!

L: God of steadfast love, you change the stony edges of repentant hearts into landscapes of mercy.

P: Now let us branch out into new life, growing with generosity!

Words of Assurance

L: Divine Gardener, you tend us in steadfast love, unending mercies, and eternal faithfulness; you cultivate true friendship with you through boundless forgiveness. In Christ, this faithful love is planted in our hearts. Gathered as your community of believers, our family of faith, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us, we can now produce forgiveness for each other as we are forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Serving the Bread and Cup

*Closing Hymn

"How Firm a Foundation"

UMH #529

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
4. "When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.
5. "The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

*Benediction

*Postlude

"Love Was When"

By Don Wyrzten

(ushers will dismiss the congregation by pew beginning from the rear)

Be Not Afraid

Be not afraid: for I have redeemed you; be not afraid: I have called you by name. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you; when you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed; you are mine, you are precious in my sight.

Be not afraid: for I have redeemed you; be not afraid: I have called you by name. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you; when you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed; you are mine, you are precious in my sight.

My love for you is everlasting; my love for you shall have no end. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you; when you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed. You are mine, you are precious in my sight, you are precious in my sight. You are precious in my sight.

Hearts of Gratitude

Our hearts of gratitude bring us to this place. Here we worship Christ; here we seek His face. Our hearts of gratitude bring us to this place, this place. Taking bread and wine, mercy we embrace. A feast of love is spread: body broken, blood shed. Hearts of gratitude bring us to this place. Our hearts of gratitude bring us to this place. Here we worship Christ; here we seek, we seek His face. Hearts of gratitude bring us to this place; remembering His love, we celebrate His grace. A feast of love is spread: body broken, blood shed. Hearts of gratitude bring us to this place. A feast of love is spread: body broken, blood shed. Hearts of gratitude, hearts of gratitude, our hearts of gratitude bring us to this place.