



Sharing Christ's Love, Growing God's Family

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Welcome to Community of Joy! Please know that whoever you are and from wherever you have come, you are welcome in God's house! We are happy you are joining us!

We invite you to take a moment to **silence** your **cell phones**. Thank you!

Children are members of the church and we want them to be a part of worship. If you feel the need to step away for a moment, we have a nursery that is available for children aged 5 and younger.

During the Season of Easter we hear stories of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances. In these post-Easter stories, Jesus' interactions with his followers are invariably depicted as tender, reassuring, and hopeful. He rekindles his relationships with all those who loved him, and promises that even though he must depart in body, he will always be with them through the Holy Spirit. His followers will now have to learn to discern his invisible presence, as they learn to become his visible presence as the Body of Christ. Our mission is the same. "Resurrected Christ, show us that you are still here, among us, around us, and within us. Amen."

Visit Our Welcome Table: Find everything you need at the Welcome Table outside the sanctuary doors, including bulletins, masks, and an offering basket. Receive communion at the altar during the service, or find prepackaged communion servings with wine or grape juice options on the welcome table. Ask an usher if you need assistance in any way.

Easter 5

April 28th, 2024

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME CARDS

VOLUNTEER APRECIATION LITANY

P: Today we celebrate all of our volunteers at Community of Joy, for the body of Christ is a ministry of all God's people, and the Gospel is proclaimed by a priesthood of all believers. And so let us give thanks for all those who convey Christ's Good News in word and deed, as together we proclaim...

All: Thanks be to God!

P: For those who help us worship our Lord; for singers and instrumentalists, for communion helpers, ushers, and readers; for AV workers, nursery attendants, and all those who make this a place of joyful worship, together we proclaim...

All: Thanks be to God!

P: For those who form faith and help us journey closer to the mind of Christ; for those who love children and help those who seek to grow, for Sunday school teachers, Bible study and small group leaders, and all those who nurture seekers of truth, together we proclaim...

All: Thanks be to God!

P: For the many who work behind the scenes to keep this place running, for those who change light bulbs, mop floors, and repair what is broken, for leaders who inspire our giving and manage our stewardship, for your faithful people who serve on committees and take on positions of leadership, together we proclaim...

All: Thanks be to God!

P: For those who welcome and convey the hospitality of Jesus, for our kitchen and fellowship volunteers who feed us and nourish us in community, for participants in Joyful Hearts and Beer Buddies Ministries, and all those who connect us to friends inside and outside of these walls, together we proclaim...

All: Thanks be to God!

P: For those who share Christ's passion for service, for those who organize food donations, charity drives, and opportunities for service; for leaders who connect us with partners in our community and our world, and all those who remind us to remember the least among us, together we proclaim...

All: Thanks be to God!

P: Lord, there is much need in this world,

All But in your Spirit and in our neighbor there is enough. We give you thanks, Jesus. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"Oh, Sing to God Above"

Verse 1

Oh, sing to God above a hymn of joyful greeting,
a song of grateful love in the new day's light repeating;
you made the sea and sky, the sun and stars in splendor,
delight shone in your eye- all your works were filled with wonder.

Refrain

Alleluia! Alleluia! Oh, sing to God above: Alleluia!

Verse 2

Oh, sing to God above a hymn of praise and blessing,
a song of grateful love, hope and faith our hearts expressing;
creation lifts its voice to tell your might and glory,
and we, too, will rejoice to proclaim the saving story.

A Word from Campus Ministry- *Ministry Moment and Video*

PRAISE SONG

"Oh, Sing to the Lord"

Verse 1

Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song. *(repeat 3x)*
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

Verse 2

For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders. *(repeat 3x)*
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

Verse 3

So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets. *(repeat 3x)*
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

Verse 4

Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit. *(repeat 3x)*
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

Verse 5

For Jesus is the Lord! Amen! Alleluia! *(repeat 3x)*
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

P: We invite you to turn towards the camera and greet those worshipping with us online! ... And please also share signs of peace with one another.

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

READINGS

Deuteronomy 10:12-19

"So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? Only to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being. Although heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the Lord your God, the earth with all that is in it, yet the Lord set his heart in love on your ancestors alone and chose you, their descendants after them, out of all the peoples, as it is today. Circumcise, then, the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stubborn any longer. For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Reader: Word of God – Word of Life

All: Thanks be to God!

Mark 10: 46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

"Stories from the Border"

COJ's Immersion Group

SONG of the DAY

"When the Poor Ones"

Verse 1

When the poor ones, who have nothing, still are giving;
when the thirsty pass the cup, water to share;
when the wounded offer others strength and healing:
We see God, here by our side, walking our way;
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.

Verse 3

When our spirits, like a chalice, brim with gladness;
when our voices, full and clear, sing out the truth;
when our longings, free from envy, seek the humble:
We see God, here by our side, walking our way;
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.

Verse 2

When compassion gives the suffering consolation;
when expecting brings to birth hope that was lost;
when we choose love, not the hatred all around us;
We see God, here by our side, walking our way;
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.

Verse 4

When the goodness poured from heaven fills our dwellings;
when the nations work to change war into peace;
when the stranger is accepted as our neighbor:
We see God, here by our side, walking our way;
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.

RESPONSE AND PRAYERS

CREED OF THE IONA COMMUNITY

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

All: We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.

We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, he died forsaken. He descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present, and His kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Intercessory Prayer

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.

P: Trusting in God's goodness, let us pray for ourselves, our human family, and all creation.

God of Mercy, today we remember the heritage of our faith. We remember how Christ's own family were once refugees and how you taught your people to show mercy to the outsider and foreigner. We remember how Jesus wandered the world without a bed and how he did not turn suffering people away. Lord, beyond every complex policy question, help us remember who we are. And preserve in us the capacity to simply see the divine image in all people and respond to suffering with love. Spirit of Hope,

All: hear our prayer.

P: God of the Hurting, we thank you for the witness of those who recently returned from the Border Immersion Experience and for the stories they shared with us today. Bless and inspire all those who are caught up in this struggle including: refugees who flee violence and poverty, charities and partners like Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey who serve those most in need, and border officials who are tasked with impossible jobs and overwhelming numbers. Inspire also leaders who hold positions of influence to use their power to work towards sensible reforms that can be a blessing to all. Spirit of Hope,

All: hear our prayer.

P: And God, as we pray for partners in ministry, today we also thank you for campus ministry as we especially lift up our friends at Luther House. Pour your blessings on this ministry as it invites people to journey more deeply into Christ, that they may help their community to discover their vocations and bear your love to the world. Pour your blessing on those who accompany students, faculty, and staff through the joys and challenges of college life. May it be a place of grace and safety for all, and may all they do be a proclamation of your compassion and peace. Spirit of Hope,

All: hear our prayer.

P: And God today we pray for the wellbeing of this world, it's land, and it's creatures. We lift up the lost and the suffering. We pray for the sick, the poor, the unhoused, and the unloved. And we lift up in prayer these friends and members who are close to our hearts:

All: Family of Patt Crown, Mary Kay Crown, Teresa Maser, Bernie Macmillan, Barbara Rousselle, Aneka Parisi, Peggy Reed, Kevin Kinney, Josh Welbaum, Charlotte Griffith, Nick & Marge Barol, Pr. Rose Mary Sánchez-Guzmán, Pr. Juan De Dios Lopez, Brian Erickson, Reuben Garcia.

P: And finally we pray for all those persons and situations which we now name silently or aloud.

A time for individual prayers.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your goodness and healing power in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

All: Amen.

PRESENTATION of the GIFTS

"Doxology"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, Ye heavenly hosts;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Good and gracious God,

All: All good gifts come from you. We give back of ourselves, our time, and our resources and place them in your loving hands. Accept and bless these gifts as signs of your gracious love. Amen.

THE MEAL

*This is the Lord's Table and all persons who wish to receive are welcome.
Parents may decide if and when their children will partake. If you or your child wish to instead
receive a blessing, please cross your arms or let your communion server know.*

P: Friends in Christ, as people who are both saints and sinners, we gather now for the feast of eternal life. You are welcome, for this is a table of grace and mercy. This is a home for the homeless, and all who seek fullness in God.

All: With hungry hearts we come to God's table seeking salvation, and Christ does not turn us away. For this is a meal for all who are hungry in body and spirit.

P: God, we give you thanks, for in great love you sent us your Son, Jesus. With this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor and the distressed, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

All: We praise your name, O God of Mercy. Open our hearts to your presence as we gather at your table and remember the story of salvation.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

All: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

P: As we gather at your table, Lord, fill us with your presence, renew us with your grace, and show us your Kingdom.

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION SONG

"Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)"

Verse 1

You call me out upon the waters,
The great unknown where feet may fail.
And there I find You in the mystery,
In oceans deep,
My faith will stand.

Verse 2

Your grace abounds in deepest waters,
Your sovereign hand
Will be my guide.
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me,
You've never failed and You won't start now.

Bridge

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders,
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me.
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Saviour. *(repeat)*

Refrain

And I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise,
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine.

Final Refrain

I will call upon Your name
Keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise,
My soul will rest in Your embrace
I am Yours and You are mine.

SENDING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Christ, Giver of Grace Upon Grace,

All: You have filled us with your loving presence and given a message of Good News to share. Send us forth by your Spirit, to be your hands of mercy and voice of love. Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord, whose love shines on every creature and whose image lives in every person, bless you and keep you. As you have been fed, may you feed the world. As you have been given hope, may you bring hope to others. And may God fill you with grace and peace, this day and always.

All: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen!

SENDING SONG

"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"

ELW 538

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth a better place to live.
The angels are not sent into our world of pain
to do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

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