**United Presbyterian Church**

 **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

 **May 9th, 2021**

**11:00am**

**WORSHIP FOR THE LORD’S DAY**

Thanks for worshiping with us. Whether you are with us from the pew or with us via your computer screen, we are so glad you’re here. Remember, worship is about God and we focus our eyes and hearts on the One who is before all things. At the same time, we know that when we gather, we receive gracious gifts and experience the love of Christ as one church.

To prepare for worship, read the Words of Preparation; read

and reflect upon the Scripture passage for today. Be intentional about connecting with God in your worship.

**Words for Preparation**

*“Friendship is a matter of being with others.” -Herbert McCabe, God Still Matters*

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Sing to the LORD a new song, for the LORD has done marvelous things.
**O Lord, you have made known your victory; you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
**Sing praises to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the King, the LORD.**Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.
**Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the LORD!**

**Hymn "In Christ There Is No East or West"**

 **Glory to God #317**

**Call to Confession**

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

*(Period of silence for personal confession)*

**Prayer of Confession**

**Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn, we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, but now we have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gloria Patri**

**Prayers of People and The Lord’s Prayer**

**….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,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever.**

***Amen.***

**Special Music**

**Prayer for Illumination**

Faithful God, make our hearts bold with love for one another. Pour out your Spirit upon all people, that we may live your justice and sing in praise the new song of your marvelous victory. Amen.

**Scripture Readings**

**Acts 10:44-48 (New Revised Standard Version)**

10:44 While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

10:45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles,

10:46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said,

10:47 "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

10:48 So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

**John 15:9-17 (New Revised Standard Version)**

15:9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

15:10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

15:11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

15:12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

15:13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

15:14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.

15:15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

15:16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

15:17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon** “Resurrection Life: Friendship”

 Rev. Candice Womack

**Affirmation of Faith (A Brief Statement of Faith)**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts**

How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods yet refuses to help a person in need? Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

**Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

*(Please use this time for silent prayer and reflection as you consider ways to offer your life, your gifts, time, and commitment to God. You may give online at upctx.org/giving OR as you enter or exit the church sanctuary today. There are two offering boxes available. One is located at the Narthex and the other along the Commons hallway. Today we give a special offering, called “Noisy Offering” which this quarter goes to the GISD Teacher Supply Closet. Gather your spare change and place them in the noisy offering bowls located at each table.)*

**Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude—for your call on our lives, your guidance in our baptismal journey, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. Accept what we bring for your own good purposes. In Christ we pray. Amen.

**Hymn “What a Friend We Have in Jesus"**

 **Glory to God #465**

**Choral Benediction “Go Now In Peace”**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**