

Peace Presbyterian Church, Elkhorn Nebraska

April 11, 2021 Second Sunday of Easter

Our Vision: Knowing Jesus and Making Him Known

Prelude

The Day of Resurrection

Shirley Young

Ringling of the Bell

Bill Dermeyer

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Bonnie Wilkins

(Congregational Meeting regarding land sale, Monday, 4/19 at 6pm via Zoom)

Call to Worship

Tom Wagner

ONE: The Word of life spoke so we could hear the 'Alleluias!' of heaven.

ALL: The Word of life walked out of death's tomb so we could follow him into risen life forever. Alleluia to our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus!

Song

Come Christians, Join to Sing Jason Fuller, Peace Praise Band

Scripture

Psalms 145:8-13 (NRSV)

Tom Wagner

"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds."

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Confession

Tom Wagner

ONE: It is hard to step out of the shadows of these times, to try to embrace the light which is being cast upon us. We have spent so much time searching, hoping, longing for things to change, and in it all, we forgot so many people. We ignored so much pain, we turned away from grief and loss, afraid it would embrace us. Yet we are reminded that we are still Easter people! Let us speak of pandemic fears which have tried to wipe away resurrection hope, as we pray together, saying,

ALL: Whether we can gather as one today, or feel we need to stay apart; whether we continue to huddle in the shadows and take tentative steps into the light, today we come to you, fear-removing God. We would like to think we have been so distanced from you, that you have not noticed our foolishness. So eager to go back to before this pandemic began, we are hesitant to trust in the future you hold out to us. But still, you come, to open the gates of hope, so we might walk in the gardens of life; you come, to open the gates of grace, so we might plant peace in the wilderness of the world; you come, to open the gates of resurrection, so we might know our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

(Moment of Silent Prayer)

Words of Forgiveness

Rev. Wilkins

ONE: Amen. God offers us steadfast hope and love which will never end. God forgives us and sets us free.

ALL: We are always Easter people! We will rejoice and give thanks to the God who saves us.

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Response

Gloria Patri

Men's Choir, Shirley Young

Scripture

Acts 4:32-35

Rev. Wilkins

“Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

With One Heart

Rev. Wilkins

Prayer Requests and Prayer

Rev. Wilkins

Offering

Tom Wagner

ONE: We invite you to make your offering online or by mailing in your check to our P.O. Box address. Your gifts and offerings support Christ's work through Peace. Together or alone, we continue to offer our gift to others –

ALL: to those who hunger for hope in a time of uncertainty, to those who long for community to replace their loneliness, for those who seek faith instead of fears. May these gifts be but part of what we give back to the Lord, as we seek to serve God's people and creation.

The Lord's Prayer

Thom Wagner

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. Amen.

Song

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Teresa King, Praise Band

Charge and Blessing

Rev. Wilkins

ONE: Scattered from one another, we can still go with God into the world.

ALL: We will offer healing and hope to all who wander in the shadows of life.

ONE: Separated from one another, we can still go with Jesus to serve others.

ALL: We will listen to the ignored; we will speak out for the forgotten.

ONE: Together again, in familiar and new ways,

ALL: we join the Spirit in offering steadfast love as we go into the world.

(Blessing)

Postlude

Put Your Hand in the Hand

Pete Hall, Dave Fulton

(Liturgy adapted from the writings of Thom M. Shuman)