

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Sixth Sunday of Eastertide
May 9, 2021
Gathering

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"I Love You, Lord"
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Arr. Douglas E. Wagner

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 98

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

**We will sing praises to the Lord
with the lyre and the sound of the horn.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

We will sing you a new song,

O God, for the marvelous things you have done.

Let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN

"I Love You, Lord"

Tune: I LOVE YOU, LORD

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you; O my soul, rejoice.

Take joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

Laurie Klein, 1978. © 1978 House of Mercy Music. Reprinted under CCLI License #1738155

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we have sinned against you and denied your rule over the nations. We have pursued pretenses of self-interest rather than abiding in your love. We have turned from other Christians as if they are enemies to be hated. We are afraid to love those who differ from us. We hesitate to take the risk of caring for fear that we may be hurt. Release us from our fears and failure to trust your love and live with bold generosity.

(A time for personal reflection and repentance) And all of God's people said, **Amen**

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE *(singing)*

Tune: AURELIA

**How blest, those whose transgressions have freely been forgiven;
whose guilt is wholly covered before the sight of heaven.**

Blest, those to whom our Lord God will not impute their sin:

whose guilt has been forgiven; whose hearts, made true again.

The New Metrical Version of the Psalms, 1909. Public Domain

Listening to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE

1 John 5:1-6

CEB

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born from God. Whoever loves someone who is a parent loves the child born to the parent. ² This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep God's commandments. ³ This is the love of God: we keep God's commandments. God's commandments are not difficult, ⁴ because everyone who is born from God defeats the world. And this is the victory that has defeated the world: our faith. ⁵ Who defeats the world? Isn't it the one who believes that Jesus is God's Son?

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

John 15:9-17

CEB

⁹ "As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. ¹² This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than to give up one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I don't call you servants any longer, because servants don't know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. ¹⁷ I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"A tale of Love?"

Jim Musgrave

Responding to God

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

Tune: FOREST GREEN

**Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God's holy Son.
As members of each body joined, in him we are made one.**

**Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.
Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God's name;
our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same.**

Latin, 8th cent; trans. Omer Westendorf, 1960. © 1960, 1988 World Library Publications.
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JOYS & CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

Going Forth to Serve

*HYMN

"We Are One In the Spirit"

Tune: THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

**We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored;
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

Peter Scholtes, 1966. © 1991 Lorenz Corp. Reprinted under OneLicense #A-743832

*WORDS OF DISMISSAL

You have been chosen as disciples of Christ. Your task is to learn and proclaim God's word. You are to bear God's truth. The love of Jesus is your guard and protection.

Now, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all – now and always. **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.**

*POSTLUDE

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Church Notes

THE SESSION HAS APPROVED a motion to return to in-person worship on June 6. The new worship time is 9:30am. That time was negotiated between First Presbyterian Church, South Charleston, and RLPC, as both congregations move to a shared pastorate.

MOTHER'S DAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON

Please join us for virtual Mother's Day Potluck luncheon today at 12:15 pm after the service.

The Zoom address is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89754364054?pwd=S3FPUXBzWVZQRXBWL0dkd2s2aXp6Zz09>

For those of you who do not have internet connections, you may join by phone by calling

1 301 715 8592 pause #897 5436 4054

LITURGIST

RLPC again welcomes Rev. Sharon Gearing of First Presbyterian Church South Charleston as our liturgist for this week. She is joining us in place of a responsive reader. She has been in the pulpit with Jim since March 28th doing opening prayers, confession, reading scripture and participating in communion. Sharon has been at FPCSC for the past several years.

Prayer List

*To add/remove/correct names on the prayer list,
please call the church office (768-4141) or email rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com*

Prayers of Joy

Prayers for Concerns – Our friends and neighbors and their families

Sandy Ashworth	Addilyn Hardin	Marcia Obukowicz
Merrily Bailey	Tre' Hardin	Jackie Pauley
Bill Beasley*	Brad Harkins	Bill Perry
Day and Gene Bishop	Willie Haynes*	Joy Ratcliff
Jennifer Fisher Braden	Juanita Hefner	Michelle Smith
Michelle Broyles*	Carol Hill	Ike Taylor
Erin "Nikki" Childers	Joe Layne	Ellie Grace Washington
Barbara Clark	Cheryl Morgan	Michael Witt
Tory Fenniger	Betty Oakes*	
Bogan "Danny" Gumowski	John Oakes*	

Prayers for our Military

Brett Baker	Brent Bishop	Evan Chaney
Jeff Barker	Steve Cash	

All who are serving, who have been injured and the families who have lost someone in combat; those who live and serve on the Korean Peninsula and other nations in that region of the world; our troops facing terrorist attacks.

Prayers for those in Senior Residential Centers - Cliff Asbury, Kanawha Place; Betty Berry, Edgewood Summit

Prayers for those at home - Reva Asbury, Jeanette Bates, Bonnie Cheely, Anita McCormick, Anita Wehrmann

Prayers for Pollen8 in their ministry for drug addiction.

Prayer List for Churches: Community Presbyterian Church, Arthurdale; Milton Presbyterian Church; Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church; Githiru Church (Gay-THEE'roh); Kagumo Parish (Kah-GOOM'OH)

*Added to Prayer List this week