

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Christ is Our Cornerstone

Pax Worship Service

May 7, 2023

AS WE GATHER

We continue to focus our attention on Jesus' resurrection. We see that Jesus is the stone that was rejected by the religious leaders. He was crucified and killed by them. Yet God raised Jesus from the dead, making Him the cornerstone, the foundational stone upon which all the other stones in the building are aligned and built. As we build upon the foundation and cornerstone of Jesus, we are conformed and aligned to Him.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING SONG

"Come Alive"

Verse: Thru the eyes of men it seems there's so much we have lost as
we look down the road where all the prodigals have walked.
One by one the enemy has whispered lies, then led them off
as slaves.

Verse: But we know that You are God, Yours is the victory. We
know there is more to come that we may not yet see.
So with the faith You've given us we'll step into the valley
unafraid.

Chorus: As we call out to dry bones, "come alive, come alive."
We call out to dead hearts, "come alive, come alive."
Up out of the ashes let us see an army rise. We call out to
dry bones, "come alive."

Verse: God of endless mercy, God of unrelenting love, rescue every
daughter, bring us back the wayward son. And by Your
Spirit breathe upon them, show the world that You alone can save.
You alone can save.

Chorus: So, we call out to dry bones, "come alive, come alive."
We call out to dead hearts, "come alive, come alive."
Up out of the ashes let us see an army rise. We call out to
dry bones, "come alive."

Bridge: So breath, O breath of God. Now breathe, O breath of
God. Breathe, O breath of God, now breathe.
Breathe, O breath of God. Now breathe, O breath of
God. Breathe, O breath of God, now breathe.

Chorus: As we call out to dry bones, "come alive, come alive."
We call out to dead hearts, "come alive, come alive."
Up out of the ashes let us see an arm rise. We call out to dry
bones, "come alive." "Come alive."

INVOCATION

Vicar: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Vicar: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Vicar: Christ is our cornerstone;
People: on Him alone we build.

Vicar: In Him we are a newborn, chosen, priestly people.
People: We are called to proclaim His excellencies to the world.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Vicar: Though Christ is our cornerstone and has changed our identity to
be His chosen people, we often build upon things other than
Jesus. Such building crumbles to the ground, for unless we build
on Christ, we labor in vain. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful,
and He invites us to draw near to His throne in confidence to ask
for forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

Vicar: Heavenly Father,
People: **though we are Your chosen people, we have acted in accordance with the world rather than Your Word. We have proclaimed hatred and violence rather than Your excellencies. Forgive us, renew us, and restore as Your newborn, chosen, priestly people, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

Vicar: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.
People: **Amen. We are forgiven. We are a newborn, chosen, priestly people.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

SALUTATION

Vicar: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Vicar: Let us pray.
O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

² And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, ⁵¹ “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³ you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together^[a] at him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:2–10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”^[a] ⁸ and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

"Doxology (Amen)"

Verse: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above, You heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Chorus: Amen, Amen. Amen, God, we praise You, God, we praise You

Instrumental

Verse: Praise God for all that He has done. Praise Him for He has overcome. The grave is beaten, love has won. Praise God, our Savior, Christ the Son.

Chorus: Amen, Amen. Amen, God, we praise You God, we praise You. Amen, Amen. Amen, God, we praise You, God, we praise You.

Bridge: Oh, we're singing: Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen. We praise You, we praise You. Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen. We praise You, we praise You. Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen. We praise You, we praise You.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

Vicar: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God;^[a] believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?^[b] ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.”^[c] ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to

him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. [d] From now on you do know him and have seen him." ⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. ¹² "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me^[e] anything in my name, I will do it.

Vicar: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES CREED *(found inside back cover of the hymnal)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

"Stay Connected"
Rev. Gordon W. Bruce

John 15:1-8

SONG OF THE DAY

"Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)"

Verse: Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You; We turn to You;
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You; We long for
You; 'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the
day; In Your presence all our fears are washed away, washed away.

Chorus: Hosanna, hosanna, You are the God Who saves us, worthy of
all our praises; Hosanna, hosanna, come have Your way
among us; We welcome You here, Lord Jesus.

Verse: Hear the sound of hearts returning to You; We turn to You.

In Your Kingdom broken lives are made new, You make us new; 'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day; In Your presence all our fears are washed away, washed away.

Chorus: Hosanna, hosanna, You are the God Who saves us, worthy of all our praises; Hosanna, hosanna, come have Your way among us; We welcome You here, Lord Jesus.

Bridge: 'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day. In Your presence all our fears are washed away; 'Cause when We see You, we find strength to face the day; In Your presence all our fears are washed away, washed away.

Chorus: Hosanna, hosanna, You are the God Who saves us, worthy of all our praises; Hosanna, hosanna, come have Your way among us; We welcome You here, Lord Jesus. Hosanna, Hosanna, You are the God Who saves us, worthy of all our praises; Hosanna, hosanna, come have Your way among us; We welcome You here, Lord Jesus. Hosanna, hosanna, Hosanna, hosanna

THE OFFERING *(baskets will be passed)*

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING *"It Is Well"*

Verse: Grandeur earth has quaked before, moved by the sound of His voice. And seas that are shaken and stirred can be calmed and broken for my regard. And through it all, through it all, my eyes are on You. And through it all, through it all, it is well. And through it all, through it all, my eyes are on You, and it is well with me.

Verse: And farbeit from me to not believe, even when my eyes can't see. And this mountain that's in front of me, will be thrown into the midst of the sea. And through it all, through it all, my eyes are on You. And through it all, through it all, it

is well. And through it all, through it all, my eyes are on You, and it
is well, it is well.

Bridge: So, let go, my soul, and trust in Him. The waves and wind
still know His name. So, let go, my soul, and trust in
Him. The waves and wind still know His name. So, let go ,
my soul, and trust in Him. The waves and wind still know
His name. The waves and wind still know His name.

Chorus: It is well with my soul, it is well with my soul. It is well with
my soul, it is well it is well with my soul. It is well with my
soul, it is well with my soul, it is well with my soul, it is well it
is well with my soul. It is well it is well with my soul. It is
well it is well with my soul.

Tag: And through it all, through it all, my eyes are on You.
And through it all, through it all, it is well. And through it
all, through it all, my eyes are on You, and it is well with me.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Vicar: Petitions heard... (*ending with...*) Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER (*found inside back cover of the hymnal*)

BENEDICTION

Vicar: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

"Build Your Kingdom Here"

Verse: Come set Your rule and reign in our hearts again. Increase
in us, we pray. Unveil why we're made. Come set our hearts
ablaze with hope like wildfire in our very souls. Holy Spirit,
come invade us now. We are Your church. We need Your
power in us.

Verse: We seek Your kingdom first. We hunger and thirst. Refuse
to waste our lives for You're our joy and prize To see the
captive hearts released, the hurt, the sick, the poor at peace.
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause. We are Your
church. We pray revive this earth.

Chorus: Build Your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear. Show
Your mighty hand, heal our streets and land. Set Your
church on fire. Win this nation back. Change the
atmosphere. Build Your kingdom here, we pray!

Verse: Unleash Your kingdom's power reaching the near and
far. No force of hell can stop Your beauty changing hearts.
You made us for much more than this, awake the kingdom
seed in us. Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.
We are Your church. We are the hope on earth.

Chorus: Build Your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear. Show
Your mighty hand, heal our streets and land. Set Your
church on fire. Win this nation back. Change the
atmosphere. Build Your kingdom here, we pray.

Instrumental

Chorus: Build Your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear. Show
Your mighty hand, heal our streets and land. Set Your
church on fire. Win this nation back. Change the
atmosphere. Build Your kingdom here, we pray!