**Order for Worship for 14th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 6, 2020**

**Prelude** “Come, Now Is the Time to Worship” *Amy Watt, piano*

**Words of Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

Jesus has promised us: I am with youwhen you gather in my name.

**We rejoice in the presence of the Lord.**

Now is the time to wake from sleep.

**Now our salvation is near!**

Let us worship God.

**Prayer of the Day**

**Hymn # 233** “The Day of Resurrection” *John of Damascus, 8th C./A. S. Sullivan 1872*

Come ye faithful raise the strain of triumphant gladness!  
God has brought forth Israel into joy from sadness,   
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters;  
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters,  
  
‘Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst his prison,

and from three days’ sleep in death as a sun has risen.

All the winter of our sins, long and dark is flying from the Light,

to whom we give laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,

with the royal feast of feasts comes its joy to render;

comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection

welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus’ resurrection!

Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb’s dark portal,

nor the watchers, nor the seal hold you as a mortal:

but today, among your own, you appear, bestowing

your deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Why, Lord God, do we live as if our lives are our own and our wills synonymous with your ways? Our actions defy your commandment to love you and love our neighbors. We forget that you entrust us with the power to forgive, the task of reconciliation and the responsibility to care for creation and every creature within it. When we are strong, we assume we are self-sufficient. When we are weak, we are embarrassed to ask for help. Forgive our pride and lack of compassion for ourselves and for others. Reveal to us yet again your merciful and gracious character and help us to reflect it so that our relationships demonstrate your loving kindness to the world. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Readings from Holy Scripture**  Exodus 12:1-14

Matthew 18:15-20

**Sermon**  “Rules of Engagement in the Beloved Community”

**Affirmation of Faith**

**This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand,**

**and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast:**

**that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,**

**that he was buried,**

**that he was raised on the third day,**

**and that he appeared first to the women,**

**then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

**Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end;**

**he is our Lord and our God.**

**Offering of Our Gifts**

Invitation

Offertory “Where Two or Three Are Gathered” *Danielle Allison & Amy Watt*

Doxology

Unison Prayer of Dedication

**Ever-present God, just as Jesus promised to be among us when two or three gather in his name, be among us now that these offerings may become instruments of your love and justice. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Invitation**

**Hymn of Preparation # 515** “I Come with Joy” *B. Wren/American folk melody*

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,

in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love in Christ’s communion bread,

in Christ’s communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,

and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here,  
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound by all that God has done,  
we’ll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving** and **Words of Institution**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. From age to age your creation sings your praises.

You feed even the birds of the air, and you clothe the fields with lilies. You gave your blessing to Abraham and his descendants, and you spoke with Moses, Elijah, and David. **Blessed are you, Lord our God.**

You fulfilled your covenant with us in Jesus. He is Emmanuel, your beloved Son, the star that guides us to wisdom, the treasure hidden in a field. He is the landowner who overpays the workers, the judge who separates good from evil. **Blessed are you, Lord our God.**

For us he lived, for us he died, for us he rose to eternal life. Then and now he invites us to your banquet.

On the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

We hear his call, we repent our ways, and we enter with joy into the kingdom of heaven.

**Blessed are you, Lord our God.**

Send your Holy Spirit here on your gathered disciples. Make of this meal the body and blood of forgiveness. Heal us and grant us your righteousness that we may love you and serve our neighbors. **Blessed are you, Lord our God.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, our Father in heaven, the Rock on which we build, the Dove alighting on us all. We worship you and sing our praises, today and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.**

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.

Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches.

Come to me and never be hungry; believe in me and never thirst.

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**Unison Prayer after Communion**

**God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn # 754** “Help Us Accept Each Other” *20th C Kaan/Potter*

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe  
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved  
in living situations to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance, for justice, and for bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;  
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

**Charge and Blessing**

**Postlude** “He Is Exalted”*Amy Watt, organ*

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*Today’s Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day are from “Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts,” Vol. 47, Year A. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Assurance of Pardon are by Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield, Editor of the Presbyterian Outlook, for September 6, 2020. The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving is from “Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: A Collection of Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings at Font and Table”* by Gail Ramshaw, copyright © 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Thanks go to Pamela Wynne, Danielle Allison, Dale Brown, Louise Beste, Bettye Thomas, JoAnn Trevor, and Amy Glennon Watt for their contributions to today’s service.

*Notes on today’s hymns from Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal (2013):*

*One of the many ancient hymns translated into English in the 19th century,* ***“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”*** *was originally part of a longer Greek liturgical text. This tune was created for this text by a church organist who later rose to fame as a composer of operettas. The text of* ***“I Come with Joy****” affirms that Christian unity is not achievement but gift, one renewed each time we gather for the Lord’s Supper. Each of us enters as an “I” and leaves as part of “we.” The unadorned language of this text is well matched to the simple shape note tune that sets it here. The scriptural basis of* ***“Help Us Accept Each Other”*** *is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. The accompanying tune was composed for the first publication of this text, by Doreen Potter.*