

Riverside United Methodist Church

The Sixth Sunday of Easter • May 17, 2020 • 9:30 AM

We gather online to worship in the name of the
+the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit+

GATHERING

Gathering Music

Call to Worship*

One: God, the Holy Spirit, comes to us and among us.

All: We open our hearts to her power moving around us and between us and within us.

One: She comes sailing as the wind to cleanse, as the fire to burn, as the dew to refresh.

All: Reveal your glory in our love of both friend and enemy.

One: She convicts, converts, and consecrates many hearts and lives to our great good and to God's greater glory.

All: Transform us by your justice and compassion so that all that is broken may be healed through us as we wait and as we worship!

Processional Hymn

At the Font We Start Our Journey

TFWS 2114

1 At the font we start our journey,
in the Easter faith baptized;
doubts and fears no longer blind us,
by the light of Christ surprised.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Hope held out and realized.

2 At the pulpit we are fashioned
by the Easter tale retold
into witnesses and prophets,
by the power of Christ made bold.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Faith proclaimed, yet still untold.

3 At the altar we are nourished
with the Easter gift of bread;
in our breaking it to pieces
see the love of Christ outspread.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Life embraced, yet freely shed.

4 At the door we are commissioned,
now the Easter victory's won,
to restore a world divided
to the peace of Christ as one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Easter's work must still be done.

Invocation

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

UMH 329

O Great Spirit, whose breath gives life to the world, and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze: We need your strength and wisdom. Cause us to walk in beauty. Give us eyes ever to behold the red and purple sunset. Make us wise so that we may understand what you have taught us. Help us learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. Make us always ready to come to you with clean hands and steady eyes, so when life fades, like the fading sunset, our spirits may come to you without shame. Amen

Gathering the Community

* From the earliest days of the Christian tradition, the Holy Spirit has been referred to in feminine language, using the pronouns she/her/hers. We honor and continue that practice in our worship service today.

THE WORD

First Lesson Acts 1:1-8 (CEB)

Theophilus, the first scroll I wrote concerned everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning, right up to the day when he was taken up into heaven. Before he was taken up, working in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus instructed the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed them that he was alive with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days, speaking to them about God's kingdom. While they were eating together, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised. He said, "This is what you heard from me: John baptized with water, but in only a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." As a result, those who had gathered together asked Jesus, "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now? Jesus replied, "It isn't for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Call to Prayer

Spirit of Life

Singing the Living Tradition 123

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind; rise in the sea.
Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free.
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Pastoral Prayer

Easter Alleluia

Sing Alleluia to the Lord

TFWS 2258

Sing alleluia to the Lord.
Sing alleluia to the Lord.
Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia!
Sing alleluia to the Lord!

Gospel Reading John 14:15-21

One: God be with you.
All: And also with you.
One: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John
All: Glory to you, O God.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

One: This is the Gospel of New Life.
All: All praise to Christ!

Response

Sing Alleluia to the Lord

TFWS 2258

In Christ, the world has been redeemed.
In Christ, the world has been redeemed.
Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia!
Sing alleluia to the Lord!

Sermon

*Our Easter Journey:
Grace in the Waiting Game*

Rev. Keith A. Turner

THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving for Easter

One: Lift up your heads

All: **We lift them up to God**

One: Lift up your hearts

All: **We lift them up to the Lord**

One: Lift up your hands

All: **We dedicate our heads, our hearts, and our hands to the worship of God.**

We offer our entire being to the God of Creation, who made the sun and the moon to govern by day and by night and hung the stars in the sky. We offer our entire being to the great God who hollowed out the valleys and bulged up the mountains, who spat out the seven seas, and populated the world with glorious creatures. Blessed be the name of the Lord who created us and fashioned us from the dust and breathed into us the breath of life.

And so we praise you and bless you, Creator God, joining our voices in the ancient hymn of all creation:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord Jesus Christ who came to us in spite of our destructive ways. He healed the sick, raised the dead and cast out demons. In the brief time that he was with us, Jesus sided with the oppressed, had compassion for those who suffer, and gave dignity to women and children. He taught us in word and deed about a God we had been unable to understand.

In spite of his glory-revealing presence among us, we turned him into a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. Jesus was persecuted by certain religious leaders and betrayed by one of his own. He was lied about, tortured, and hung on a cross to die.

Yet, even on the day of his crucifixion, Jesus continued to teach those who would listen. When evil people came with his betrayer, Jesus did not respond with violence, choosing instead to remind us that those who live by the sword will die by the sword. When he was falsely accused and condemned to death, Jesus refused to do harm. And while hanging on the cross, he prayed: "God forgive them, for they know not what they do." But we give you thanks that nothing ever was, or ever will be, able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

On the morning of the third day Jesus laughed at death, shed his grave clothes, and walked among us alive! Forty days later, he ascended into heaven, where he is seated at the right hand of the God of our ancestors. Our eyes are turned toward the skies looking for the day

when Jesus shall return to a kingdom without end, where the lion will lie down peaceably with the lamb, where sickness and disease are not known where the wicked will cease from troubling and we will study war no more!

On the night that Jesus was betrayed, he shared a meal with his disciples. He took bread from the table, gave thanks to God, and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the meal was over he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my lifeblood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Today, Jesus, we remember the bread and the cup. Today, we remember your life and your death. We remember your resurrection; we remember eternal life. As we receive these gifts in praise and thanksgiving we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Holy God, pour out your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine; make them be for us the body and blood of Christ. Wonder-working God, pour out your Spirit upon us; as we offer ourselves to be God's presence in the world until Jesus returns in glory.

One: Almighty God, We your people cry out to you on behalf of our community:
Have mercy upon all who suffer from the evils of poverty.

All: Risen Christ, be known to all in the breaking of the bread.

One: Have mercy upon all who have lost their way.

All: Risen Christ, be known to all in the breaking of the bread.

One: Have mercy upon all who have been offended by the church.

All: Risen Christ, be known to all in the breaking of the bread.

One: Have mercy upon all who feel forgotten and neglected.

All: Risen Christ, be known to all in the breaking of the bread.

**Amen, amen, amen!
Amen, amen, amen!**

Have mercy upon us Triune God,
and make us worthy to be called your people
who pray the prayer that Jesus taught to his disciples:

The Lord's Prayer

setting by Mark Miller

Our God, in heaven, holy is your name.
Your reign come.
Your will done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
and help us forgive as we have been forgiven.
In the time of trial, lead us into life.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Our God in heaven, holy is your name.
Holy is your name.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Hymn during Communion

Because Thou Hast Said

UMH 635

1 Because thou hast said: "Do this for my sake,"
the mystical bread we gladly partake;
we thirst for the Spirit that flows from above,
and long to inherit thy fullness of love.

2 'Tis here we look up and grasp at thy mind,
'tis here that we hope thine image to find;
the means of bestowing thy gifts we embrace;
but all things are owing to Jesus' grace.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

SENDING

Closing Hymn

Holy Spirit, Come, Confirm Us

UMH 331

1 Holy Spirit, come, confirm us
in the truth that Christ makes known;
we have faith and understanding
through your helping gifts alone.

2 Holy Spirit, come, console us,
come as advocate to plead;
loving Spirit from the Father,
grant in Christ the help we need.

3 Holy Spirit, come, renew us,
come yourself to make us live;
holy through your loving presence,
holy through the gifts you give.

4 Holy Spirit, come, possess us,
you the love of Three in One,
Holy Spirit of the Father,
Holy Spirit of the Son.

Benediction

Sending Music