

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

Pre-Service Music: *To Thee We Pray* - Gregg Sewell

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Prelude in B-flat* - Colin Curtis

Introit#410: *God is Calling Through the Voices* v. 2 Chancel Choir

Call to Worship:

We come to worship with joy, trusting God's holy word will inspire us.

We lean into God for understanding, anticipating the Spirit's blessing.

May God hear our praise! May we be counted among the great congregation.

**May the words of our mouths and the meditations
of our hearts be acceptable to God.**

Prayer of the Day:

Holy One, we thank you for your gift of guidance. Jesus taught us the blessed lesson that to dwell with you is not an obligation. It is a joy. We abide in you by striving to live in love. May we be the bounty of the fruit of the vine to feed your people with righteousness and justice. May we bring to the world the grace afforded unto us. Amen.

Hymn #611: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* (please stand)

Call to Confession

Jesus taught us mercy,

by praying for the forgiveness of those who killed him.

This miraculous grace assures us that no matter what we have done,
and no matter the words we have left unsaid,

We can come to Christ with our honest confession.

Prayer of Confession

Christ, our way, our truth, our life, you have shown us the way, so clearly and fully. You have not simply told us how to live, you have shown us. But we still don't get it. We do not believe all you have said to us; we do not trust the way you have shown us. Help us, O God. Forgive us. Open our ears to your truth, open our eyes to your way. Amen

Declaration of Pardon

Beloved, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Jesus prepares a place for us, Jesus brings us close to him,
Jesus answers us even in our unbelief.

We are God's own people. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria Patri #583: *Glory to God* *(please stand)*

Anthem: *For the Beauty of the Earth* John Rutter

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Worship leader will lead the prayers.

God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of the Good News. *(brief silence)*

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always.

God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ our resurrected and living Lord, who taught us to pray:

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

Hymn #36: *For the Fruit of All Creation* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Calm us now, O Lord, into a quietness that heals and listens. Open wounded hearts to the balm of your Word. Speak to us in clear tones so that we might feel our spirits leap for joy and skip with hope as your resurrection witnesses. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day

First Lesson: Acts 8:26 - 40

Epistle Lesson: I John 4:7 - 21

Gospel Lesson: John 15: 1 - 8

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Abiding in God's Love* Susan Murray

Affirmation of Faith from Ephesians 3 (stand)

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings (please be seated)

Offertory Hymn #697: *Take My Life* vs. 1, 4, and 6

Prayer of Dedication:

God of good gifts, receive these and all of our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Through the grace of God we have gifts in abundance and share them to support the work of the church in this place, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sending Hymn #300: *We are One in the Spirit* (stand)

Benediction: (remain standing)

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever.
You are the body of Christ.

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

Postlude: *Grand March* - Jason W. Krug

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