

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for the Sixth Sunday of Easter**

May 5, 2024

Pre-Service Music: *Break Thou the Bread of Life* - Todd Heaney

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *For the Beauty of the Earth* - Mark Hayes

Introit#311: *Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather* Chancel Choir

Call to Worship:

The psalmist encourages us to praise God for all the marvelous things God has done.

We join with all creation in praise, for God's love and faithfulness to us is endless.

We sing because God chooses us out of God's great love.

We choose God's love, which bears us in fullness beyond compare.

Prayer of the Day:

You promise to complete us with your joy, O Christ. This blessed assurance is ours as we do what you commanded and live in the fullness of love. As you love us, give us the strength of heart to love one another. Fuel us with love and joy, that our petitions might fly to your ear. May our faith bear fruit pleasing to you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Hymn #15: *All Creatures of Our God and King v. 1 - 4* (please stand)

Call to Confession

God does not reject our prayers.

God does not withdraw love from us.

Even when we fail to love others and struggle to love ourselves,

God's love is steadfast.

Let us lift our prayers to God.

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we love you imperfectly: we do not always keep your commandments. We love each other imperfectly: we hurt those you call us to love through our actions and our inaction. We love ourselves

imperfectly: we struggle to believe that we are truly your children, made in your image. Forgive us. By the power of your Spirit, make us more faithful that we might live as Christ has shown us, reflecting your love and grace.

Declaration of Pardon

Because Christ lives, we also live. Not because of anything we have done, not because of our belief or faithfulness: we live because Christ lives.

This is the Christ who forgives us. This is the God who is in us. This is the Spirit who is with us. Alleluia! Praise be to God!

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: *A Vineyard Grows* K. Lee Scott

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*)

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners.

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. **Amen.**

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings (please stand)

Offering #717: *For the Life That You Have Given*

Prayer of Dedication and Illumination:

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus. As we turn to your Word for us, may the

Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

Hymn #288:

Spirit of the Living God

(seated)

Scriptures for the Day

First Lesson: Acts 10:44 - 48

Epistle Lesson: I John 5:1 - 6

Gospel Lesson: John 15: 9 - 17

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon:

Love Is a Habit

Jonathan Kimball

Communion Hymn#510:

We Gather Here in Jesus' Name

Invitation to the Table and Prayer of Thanksgiving

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from north and south, from east and west,
to sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, blessed it, and broke it and gave it to them.

Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust in him to share the feast that he has prepared.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and our great delight to praise you, O God. We thank you for your steadfast love in spite of our human sin. We join with the heavenly choirs and the faithful of every time and place to sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and 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!

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and give it to his disciples saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way Jesus took the cup saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me. Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising
you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

According to Christ's commandment:

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen**

Let us 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**

Sharing the Bread and the 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. *(take the communion)*

Prayer After Communion

**Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of
wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the
name of Jesus, the Bread of Life. Amen**

Sending Hymn #747:

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

Benediction:

(remain standing)

Beloved, we are God's own people, fed at the Savior's holy table, and renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and give you peace. **Amen.**

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

Postlude: *Sunshine in My Soul* - John R. Sweeney

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