



**Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 9, 2021 – 10:30 AM**

Cherie Brooks – Director of Music

Lind Pratt – Liturgist

Whitney Dodds – Vocalist

Katie Wynkoop – Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music

Erin Wise – Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

Mark Wesley – Media Production Specialist

Rev. Joel A. Esala – Pastor

***Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community  
sharing the glory of God's love with all.***

Prelude

"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" arr. Hayes

Katie Wynkoop

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship—Liturgist

One: Sing to our God a new song.

**All: God has done marvelous things!**

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

**All: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

One: Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

**All: Let the world and its people sing together for joy!**

Hymn #7

"Mothering God, Your Gave Me Birth"

*Glory to God Hymnal*

1 Mothering God, you gave me birth  
in the bright morning of this world.  
Creator, source of every breath,  
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

2 Mothering Christ, you took my form,  
offering me your food of light,  
grain of life, and grape of love,  
your very body for my peace.

3 Mothering Spirit, nurturing one,  
in arms of patience hold me close,  
so that in faith I root and grow  
until I flower, until I know.

Call to Confession – Liturgist

We have been called to follow Christ by obeying his one commandment: that we love one another as he has loved us. Let us confess how we have fallen short of that love.

Prayer of Confession – Unison

**Loving God, we have not loved you or each other with our whole hearts. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us toward wholeness, that we may be filled with your joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon – Joel

Prayer for Illumination – Liturgist

Gracious God who has given us the rich and precious jewel of your holy Word, assist us with your Spirit, that it may be written in our hearts to our everlasting comfort: to reform us, to renew us according to your own image, to build us up, and edify us into the perfect building of your Christ, sanctifying and increasing in us all heavenly virtues. Grant us this, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

The First Reading—Acts 10:44-48

44 While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on everyone who heard the word. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 They heard them speaking in other languages and praising God. Peter asked, 47 “These people have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. Surely no one can stop them from being baptized with water, can they?” 48 He directed that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited Peter to stay for several days.

This is the good news we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Talk with Children – Erin Wise, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

The Gospel Reading—John 15:9-17 (CEB) Joel

9 “As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. 12 This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than to give up one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I don't call you servants any longer, because servants don't know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. 17 I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**



cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;  
thou wilt find a solace there.

Charge & Benediction

Postlude "Love Divine All Loves Excelling" arr. Mitchell-Wallace Katie Wynkoop

Portions of today's liturgy were reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion. Copyright 2014.