

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

April 14 and April 17, 2021



“For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ”

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 (NRSV)



Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG

“LORD I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH”

RICK FOUNDS

Lord, I lift Your name on high
Lord, I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from Heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord, I lift Your name on high

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

A new day:

Christ Lives!

In our hearts and in our world:

Christ Lives!

In the face of an unexpected neighbor:

Christ Lives!

As we share God's abundance:

Christ Lives!

As we care for God's creation:

Christ Lives!

As we share the good news, let our joy be complete:

Christ Lives!

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today
I know that He is living whatever others say
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer
And just the time I need Him, He's always near.

REFRAIN:

He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way
He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.

In all the world around me I see His loving care
And though my heart grows weary I never will despair
I know that He is leading through all the stormy blast
The day of His appearing will come at last [REFRAIN]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We gather as the body of faith seeking forgiveness.

**God, you root those who trust in you
by streams of healing water.
Release us from the bonds of disease,
free us from the power of evil,
and turn us from falsehood and illusion,
that we may find the blessing of new life in you
through the power of Christ.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

God gathers the whole universe,
A radiant presence,
and continually reveals Jesus as our redeemer.
God, through Jesus, heals all wounds,
makes whole all that is broken,
speaks truth to all illusion,
and sheds light in every darkness.
We are all forgiven.
Amen

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Ours is a hope that rises victorious. May we all know the peace of those born of the tomb. May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Let us share this peace with one another. You are invited to pass the peace by waving or typing in the chat function in Zoom.

Service of the Word

POEM

“TALES OF A MONASTERY”

BY SUE MONK KIDD

(EXCERPTS)

So There’s a story about a young [wo]man who sought out a wise old [wo]man and asked, “What great blunder have you made?” The old [wo]man replied, “They call me Christian, but I did not become Christ.”

The seeker was perplexed. “You did not become Christ? Is one supposed to become Christ?”

The old [wo]man answered, “I kept putting distance between myself and him - by seeking, by praying, by reading. I kept deploring the distance, but I never realized that I was creating it.”

“But,” the seeker insisted, “is one supposed to become Christ?”

[Her] answer: “No distance.” When there’s not distance between us and our inner Christ, we’re most human, most ourselves.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen.

A reading from 1 Corinthians, chapter 15, verses 12 through 28:

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.

We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For ‘God has put all things in subjection under his feet.’ But when it says, ‘All things are put in subjection’, it is plain that this does not include the one who put all things in subjection under him.

When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all.

Hear what God is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Jesus Christ, teach us to empathize with Your creations.

**Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation,
cries for justice from the people, the creatures, the land, the seas, and
the skies.**

Jesus Christ, teach us to be sensitive to Your creations.

**Make our spirits hear the groans of Your Spirit in
creation, groans of longing for a new creation.**

Jesus Christ, make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our kin,
songs of celebration from the sea, the forest and the air.

Christ, teach us to care. Amen

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG “THERE’S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT NAME”

UMH 171

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! There's just something about that name.
Master, Savior, Jesus, like a fragrance after the rain
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, let all heaven and earth proclaim
Kings and kingdoms may all pass away
But there's something about that name.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Creator be with you and all creation!

And also with you!

Open your hearts!

We open them to our Creator!

Let us give thanks to our Creator!

It is right to join creation in thanking God!

It is right to give you thanks, loving Creator.
Your Word is the impulse for all things to be,
for space, stars and stardust to appear,

for Earth to emerge from the deep,
for life to be born of Earth and
for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit.

You chose to be born a human being,
to become a part of Earth,
to suffer, die and rise from death
to redeem humankind, renew creation,
and affirm all born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your presence is the living impulse in all things,
the Christ deep among us,
filling Earth—land, sea and air;
filling every element and place;
filling the grain and the grape
we share with you this day.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
ancient voices in the forest,
high voices from the sky,
deep voices from the sea
and the whole company of creation,
we proclaim your presence among us

**Holy, holy, holy, God of all life,
Earth and sea and sky
and all things that exist
are full of your presence
and glorify your name.**

We remember the night when Jesus gathered at table with his friends in a time of struggle and fear, took bread, blessed it and gave it to them saying “Take and eat: for this is my body.”

And after supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, again gave You thanks and praise and said “Take this, all of you, and drink. This is the cup of the new covenant, my life poured out for you. I will drink this with you again in the reign of God.

Share this bread and this cup in memory of me.”

Come now, Holy Spirit of God—As you were present at creation, be present now, and let these gifts of bread and this cup become for us the bread of life and the cup of blessing. As you were sent by Jesus to accompany us on our journey of faith, be present now, and transform this community, sharing this bread and cup, into one body in Christ.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us join our voices in thanksgiving for this meal.

We thank you Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for Earth. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“HE LIVES” (VERSE 3)

UMH 310

**Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find
None other is so loving, so good and kind.**

REFRAIN:

**He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way
He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.**

BENEDICTION

LANCASTER COUNTY BRASS QUINTET; SCOTT SICILIANO, ORGAN

We remember our excitement
when we first saw the orb of Earth,
the mystery of a living green blue planet,
a fragile speck of stardust
made into a magnificent home.

We remember and rejoice.

And together we thank God for the privilege
of seeing Earth anew as a gift from our Creator.

Cover Art: Ugandan Risen Christ, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57466> [retrieved July 5, 2020]. Original source:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Basilica_of_Saint_Mary_of_the_Immaculate_Conception_\(Norfolk,_Virginia\),_interior,_wooden_statue_of_the_risen_Christ,_from_Uganda.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Basilica_of_Saint_Mary_of_the_Immaculate_Conception_(Norfolk,_Virginia),_interior,_wooden_statue_of_the_risen_Christ,_from_Uganda.jpg).

Centering Song “Lord I Lift Your Name On High” by Rick Founds © 1989 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.). CCLI Song # 117947

Call to Worship: Blain, Susan and Rasell, Edith. “Second Sunday of Easter.” United Church of Christ, 2018.

https://www.ucc.org/second_sunday_easter_2018.

Opening and Sending Song: “He Lives” by Alfred H. Ackley © Words: 1933 Homer A. Rodeheaver. Renewed 1961 Curb Word Music (Admin. by WC Music Corp.) CCLI Song # 17597

Music: 1933 Homer A. Rodeheaver. Renewed 1961 Curb Word Music (Admin. by WC Music Corp.)

Prayers of Confession & Assurance: The Revised Common Lectionary, 2002. Adapted for Santee Chapel.

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayers.php?id=112>

Poem: Monk Kidd, Sue, *When the Heart Waits*, (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1990), 182. excerpt from Theophane the Monk, *Tales of a Magic Monastery* (New York: Crossroad, 1981), 33, adaptations made.

Prayer of Illumination: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayers.php?id=85>, accessed July 5, 2020,

Prayer of the Community: “Planet Earth Sunday 2018.” Season of Creation, 2010. <https://seasonofcreation.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/liturgy-planet-earth-sunday-1.pdf>.

Offertory Song: “There Something About that Name” by William and Gloria Gaither. © 1970 William J. Gaither, Inc. (Admin. by Gaither Copyright Management) CCLI Song # 14064

Communion Liturgy: “Planet Earth Sunday 2018.” Season of Creation, 2010. <https://seasonofcreation.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/liturgy-planet-earth-sunday-1.pdf>.

Sending: “Planet Earth Sunday 2018.” Season of Creation, 2010. <https://seasonofcreation.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/liturgy-planet-earth-sunday-1.pdf>.

Postlude: “An Easter Celebration” by Joel Raney ©2008 Hope Publishing Co.

**The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.*

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM

Jeremy Edwards, Martha Harris, Rose Shepley, Rev. Scott Siciliano,
Hyiwot Teshome, Kellie Turner, Jennifer Weitzel
Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams, Advisor

THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

To serve the universal church of our Creator.

To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.

To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.