

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

April 20 and 23 2022



“That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.”

~ Acts 10:37-38 (NRSV)



"Christ Crucified," by John Petts (1914-1991), depicts black Jesus with arms outstretched, his right hand pushing away hatred and injustice, the left offering forgiveness. The stained-glass window was a gift to the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL, from the people of Wales, U.K, in 1964.

Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG

“GOD IS HERE”

HOUGHTON, ET AL

There is a sweet anointing
In this sanctuary,
There is a stillness
In the atmosphere;
Come and lay down
The burdens you have carried,
For in this sanctuary God is here.

(Bridge)

God is here, God is here,
To break the yoke
And lift the heavy burden;
God is here, God is here,
To heal the hopeless heart
And bless the broken.
Come and lay down
The burdens you have carried,
For in this sanctuary God is here.

GREETING

PRESIDER

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

STUDENT MINISTER

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
Rejoice, heavenly powers!
Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ, our light, is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!
**Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,
Radiant in the brightness of your Sovereign!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Night vanishes forever!**
Rejoice, O servant church!
Exult in glory!

The risen Savior shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy,
Echoing the mighty song of all God's people!
Amen!

***OPENING HYMN**

“IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST OR WEST”

UMH 548

***CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

[All are invited to turn toward the Baptismal Font.]

The baptismal font reminds us of God's promise of cleansing and forgiveness. In that confidence, let us lift our voices in a prayer of confession.

**God of love and justice,
we long for peace within and peace without.
We long for harmony in our families,
for serenity in the midst of struggle.
We long for the day when our homes
will be a dwelling place for your love.
Yet we confess that we are often anxious,
we do not trust each other, and we harbor violence.
We are not willing to take the risks
and make the sacrifices that love requires.
Look upon us with kindness and grace.
Rule in our homes and in all the world;
show us how to walk in your paths,
through the mercy of our Savior. Amen.**

The Lord God said: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. Hear the good news: Our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed! **Amen.**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

STUDENT MINISTER

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a non-contact way that's comfortable to you and your neighbor.

Peace be with you! **And also with you!**
Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM

“ON TIME”

KAHLIL GIBRAN

This poem captures the idea of memory and time to love.

And an astronomer said, “Master, what of Time?” And he answered:

“You would measure time the measureless and the immeasurable.

You would adjust your conduct and even direct the course
of your spirit according to hours and seasons.

Of time you would make a stream upon whose bank
you would sit and watch its flowing.

Yet the timeless in you is aware of life’s timelessness,
And knows that yesterday is but today’s memory
and tomorrow is today’s dream.

And that that which sings and contemplates in you
is still dwelling within the bounds
of that first moment which scattered the stars into space.

Who among you does not feel that [their] power to love is boundless?

And yet who does not feel that very love, though boundless,
encompassed within the centre of [their] being,
and moving not from love thought to love thought,
nor from love deeds to other love deeds?

And is not time even as love is, undivided and spaceless?
But if in your thought you must measure time into seasons,
let each season encircle all the other seasons,
And let today embrace the past with remembrance
and the future with longing.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

STUDENT MINISTER

Holy God, as we listen to the story of people of faith in ancient days open our hearts and minds to understand the truths contained therein. Once again send your Spirit so that, hearing your words calling out to your beloved, we may be inspired to works of love and justice in your name. **Amen.**

A reading from the Book of Acts, chapter 10, verses 34 through 43. Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all.

That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

Hear what God is saying to the people. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON**REV. CARRIE CALL (APR 20)****DANIEL LENDEH (APR 23)****PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY****STUDENT MINISTER**

Spirit of Love, we pray for all your people.

For people who are blind and cannot see and for those who can see but are blind to people around them

Spirit, in your mercy, help us touch each other.

For people who move slowly because of accident, illness or disability, and for those who move too fast to be aware of the world in which they live

Spirit, in your mercy, help us work together.

For people who are deaf and cannot hear, and for those who can hear but ignore the cries of others

Spirit, in your mercy, help us respond to each other.

For people who learn slowly, for people who learn in different ways, and for people who learn quickly and easily but often choose ignorance

Spirit, in your mercy, help us grow in your wisdom.

For people who have chronic illnesses for which there is no known cure or relief, and for people who live in unholy fear of developing chronic illness

Spirit, in your mercy, help us and heal us. Amen.

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen indeed.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Glorious God,

We give you thanks and praise,

for Christ is risen from the dead!

He has burst forth from the tomb

to break the tangles of despair and death.

Love is come again.

Therefore we praise you,

joining our voices with the eternal chorus of rejoicing

who forever sing:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord,

God of power, Giver of life,

Heaven and earth declare your splendor.

Praise, glory, and love are yours.

All-embracing God, we give thanks for Jesus,

the risen Lord of life,

who rose victorious from the grave

and made the whole creation new.

He broke bread with sinners,
fed the hungry, and healed the oppressed,
then he poured out his life in death that we might live in love.
Christ is risen from the dead. Love is come again.

We thank you that on the night before he died,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,
Take, eat: This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them and said,
Drink this all of you:
This is my blood poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.
Christ is risen from the dead. Love is come again.

Recalling his life, death, and glorious resurrection,
we offer you these gifts of bread and wine,
and our lives in thanks and praise.
Pour out your spirit upon these gifts that they may be for us
the body and blood of Jesus Christ.
Breathe your Spirit upon the whole earth,
that we may proclaim good news to all the world
and rise together as children of your new creation.
Then bring us to that new heaven here on earth, O God,
where death and pain are no more
and you dwell with us forever.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
we worship you eternally in songs
of pure unbounded praise.
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRESIDER

We have a few COVID related options for those who wish to partake. If you wish to receive from the ministers, take an empty eco-friendly cup from the stack on the aisle table and approach the minister, who will place a piece of bread in your open hand. (Or take a cup that already has a piece of gluten-free bread in it, or take one of the sealed celebration cups with the wafer on top and juice beneath; hold them out to the minister for a blessing.) A minister will pour grape juice into your cup. Eat, drink, and dispose of the cup in the waste baskets at the side aisles as you return to your seat.

If you are unable to come forward, please signal the ministers and we will come to you at your seat. Those who prefer not to partake in Communion are invited to a different kind of divine encounter through an interfaith prayer of blessing. If this is your preference, we invite you to meet the preacher at the baptismal font.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at this table where Christ is the host.

COMMUNION SONG

“FOR EVERYONE BORN” (A PLACE AT THE TABLE)”

MURRAY

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRESIDER

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate. Your resurrection we confess. Your final coming we await. Glory be to you, O Christ. Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off, you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY”

NCH 233

***BENEDICTION**

[All are invited to turn toward the Preacher at the Baptismal Font.]

SENDING & POSTLUDE

Listen to God; Bridge the chasm.

You are welcome to keep your bulletin, but if you do not wish to keep it please place it on the table at the entrance to the chapel as you leave.

Cover Art: Petts, John, 1914-1991. *Christ Crucified*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57342> [retrieved July 21, 2021]. Original source: <http://christianchurchestogether.org/letter-from-birmingham-jail/>.

Centering Song: CCLI Song # 4185569 Israel Houghton | Martha Munizzi | Meleasa Houghton © 2003 Integrity's Praise! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music) *Sound Of The New Breed* (Admin. by Integrity Music) Martha Munizzi Music (Admin. by Say The Name Publishing) All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 2676632 Call **Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor, Feasting on the Word**

Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1, September 16, 2013, pg. 198-199.

Call to Worship: "United Church of Christ, *Book of Worship: United Church of Christ* (Cleveland: United Church of Christ, Local Church Ministries, 2012), 231.

Confession and Words of Assurance: *Adapted from Trinity Presbyterian Church. "Prayer of Confession."*
<http://www.dallastpc.org/s/Bulletin-March-8-2020.pdf>

Prayers of the Community: Reference

Poem: Gibran, Kahlil. "On Time." *Poets.org*. Accessed July 23, 2021. <https://poets.org/poem/time-2>

Communion Liturgy: Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor, *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1, September 16, 2013, pg. 198-199.*

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

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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.