

Order of Service

May 24, 2020

Seventh Sunday of Easter

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*We are so glad you are able to join us in worship this morning – or  
 whenever you are able to join us on line. In these times, we are blessed  
 to know that we can worship together in various places, at various  
 times, and in our own ways. Welcome!*  
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Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

Prelude

Call to worship (Psalm 68:32-35)

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.
 O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, God sends
 out God's voice, the Lord's mighty voice. Ascribe power to God,
 whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies.
 Awesome is God in the sanctuary, the God of Israel; the Lord
 gives power and strength to God's people. Blessed be God!

Song of Praise God of Grace and God of Glory

THE CHURCH

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad-ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad-ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour-age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour-age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour-age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour-age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king-dom's goal, lest we miss thy king-dom's goal.
 serv-ing thee whom we a - dore, serv-ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

TEXT: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930, alt.
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

Invocation

God, we cast our anxieties on you, knowing that you care for us. Send your Spirit to open our hearts, settle our minds and grant us discernment. May your living Word come alive in us. Amen.

Call to Confession

God, we humble ourselves before you. The burden of our sin is too heavy to carry and too big to hide. We rejoice in your promise of mercy and forgiveness. Hear us as we name that which we no longer want to have dominion over us. Hear us and set us free.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Lord, you pray that your followers will be one as you and your Father are one, and yet we divide into factions, demonize those with whom we disagree and fail to show the world we are yours through our love of one another. We are to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth, revealing your mercy and enacting your compassion. Instead we keep silent when we should speak and speak when we ought to remain silent. Forgive us for our failure to take risks for your sake. Grant us your grace and embolden us to share it, forgiving others as we have been forgiven. (*Silent prayer*) Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (1 Peter 5:10)

Friends, Christ himself restores, supports, strengthens and establishes us. Believe the good news, through Jesus Christ we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

Song of Thanksgiving

I Am A Child of God

(used by permission)

I Am a Child of God used by permission

The musical score is written for a unison voice part in 3/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: 'I I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's new cre - a - tion. I am a child of God, I am a child of God.' The score includes chord symbols (Bb6, F, C) and measure numbers (1, 2, 3, 4) in boxes. The tempo is marked 'Unison' and the key signature is one flat (Bb).

Unison 1
♩ = 152 C B^b6 F C 2 C B^b6

I I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's

3 F C C B^b6 F
new cre - a - tion. I am a child of

4 C C B^b6 F C
God, I am a child of God.

THE WORD

Scripture

Sermon

Rev. Karen Russell

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Call for the Offering

What could we return to God for the gift of eternal life? What can we render to the Lord for the gift of salvation? What would be pleasing to our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer? We offer nothing less than ourselves even as we return to God a portion of what God has entrusted to us. Freely we have received, freely let us give.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, often our anxieties and fear overwhelm our desire to trust you. We give in to worry and suppress the Spirit's urging to be generous and open-hearted. But this morning, in faith, we offer you these resources, knowing you will take them, bless them, multiply them and use them to meet the world's needs. May this offering help ease the pain of those wondering if there really is enough for everyone. We thank you for the ability to participate in your life-giving work. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

Song of Thanksgiving

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful 654

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re - joice! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your voice - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voice - es; the Lord is near." The score includes a treble and bass staff for each part, with lyrics written below the notes. There are three measures of music for each line of lyrics.

This refrain from the ecumenical monastic community at Taizé, France, is meant for repeated singing. A wonderful quilt of psalm-like phrases, it would be appropriate at any time but the concluding emphasis on the nearness of the Lord makes it especially fitting for use in Advent.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1986
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1986
Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL
Irregular

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer (*debts and debtors*)

Loving God, knowing that Christ prays for us, we join our hearts and voices in his prayers for the world. We come before you seeking to ask the right questions, discern your answers and do your will. We cast our anxieties on you, knowing you care for us.

Merciful God, knowing that our ways are not your ways, we humble ourselves and ask for your guidance. As we struggle with

how to navigate these turbulent and frightening times, we pray that you would help us to make choices that glorify you and demonstrate our love for our neighbors. Help us to look to the interest of others as we begin to venture from our homes again. Do not let us be a stumbling block to the well-being of the vulnerable and weaker among us.

Gracious God, knowing that you refuse to leave us alone, that you run out to meet us when we make the slightest turn toward you, that you rejoice whenever a lost one is found, we pray for those in greatest need of your strength and courage. Comfort those who mourn. Bind up the brokenhearted. Feed the hungry. Set the captives free. Enliven us with the Spirit so that we may be the light and salt we are called to be in your world.

Almighty God, knowing that you can do abundantly more than we can ever hope our imagine, we are bold to ask you to for the desires of our hearts. You know our deepest needs before we even name them. You send your Son that we might have abundant life and our joy might be complete. Resting in your promises, we set aside our worry and open our mouths in praise. Help us to give thanks in all circumstances, confidence that you hold us in the palm of your hand and will never let us go. Generous God, knowing that there is no end to your goodness, we pray to do your will, no matter where it takes us or what it requires of us. You give us the power of the Holy Spirit to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth. Free us from whatever prevents us from being welcoming, generous and loving. Make us one in our service to our Savior Jesus Christ, who taught us to say when we pray, **Our Father...**

Closing Hymn **Blest Be The Tie That Binds**

THE CHURCH

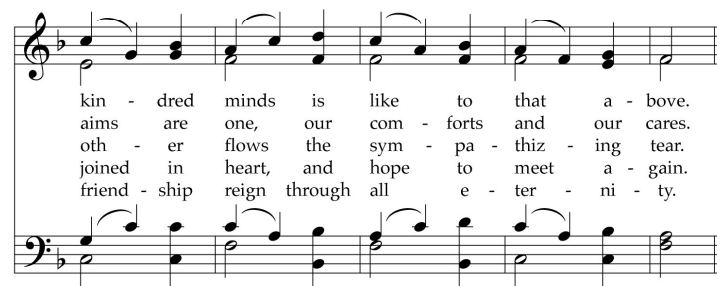
Blest Be the Tie That Binds 306



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
 2 Be - fore our *Fa - ther's throne we pour our
 3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual
 4 When we are called to part, it gives us
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we



Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of
 ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our
 bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be
 shall be free; and per - fect love and



kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.
 friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

*Or "Maker's"

Written to express a pastor's unwillingness to leave a beloved congregation, this hymn is frequently used as an expression of Christian fellowship, especially at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper. The tune is attributed to an influential Swiss musician and publisher.

TEXT: John Fawcett, 1782
 MUSIC: Johann Georg Nägeli, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1845

DENNIS
 SM

Charge and benediction

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage! Hold fast to what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord your God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Postlude

Liturgy adapted from: © Presbyterian Outlook, 2020. Liturgy written by Jill Duffield and provided for free distribution

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www.firstprespalestine.com and on the giving app

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday – Be prepared to celebrate the coming of the Spirit!

WEEKLY FACEBOOOK LIVE Events:

Morning Prayer, Monday – Friday, 10 am, Facebook Live

You can get **directly to our Facebook live** feed by clicking on this link, or copying and pasting it into your browser search line:

<https://www.facebook.com/1stPresbyChurch/live/>

- For **information on joining our Friday morning Bible Study**, click on this link, or copy and paste the link into your browser search line:

<https://tinyurl.com/FriBibleStdy>

(Hint: go halfway down the page, and find the section “How to join the meeting” and click the long link to get to the zoom meeting.)

- **Wednesday Morning, you can have “Brunch with the Moderators,”** with the moderators and vice moderator of Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois. If you are interested in Brunch with the Moderators, Pastor Karen can supply the Zoom link and meeting information. (this will be about a one hour, drop in/drop out time with no agenda)