



United in Christ: Hope Now! Hope Always!

“Wait, Israel, for God! Wait with hope! Hope now! Hope always! Psalm 131:3

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones Lay Ministry Administrator: Jenny Hoffman

Guest Preacher: Sophie Geister-Jones

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz Soloist: Kyla Betts

Lector: Jeff Zarth (8:00 a.m.) Jenny Hoffman (9:15 a.m.)

Ushers: Myron Sime, Dan Matson (8:00 a.m.)

Tune your radio to FM 87.9 Technical Support: Thomas Lehr

This Sunday’s image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John’s gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP: “To God Be the Glory” 1st Class Ringers

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen.

P: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Fountain of living water,

C: **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**

Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

P: Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ✝ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus

C: Amen.

HYMN: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" #836 vss. 1 & 2

vs. 1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!

Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

**vs. 2 All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.**

**Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.**

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

LITANY

P: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

P: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

P: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!" #380 ELW

**Hallelujah! Jesus lives! He is now the Living One;
from the gloomy halls of death Christ, the conqueror, has gone,
bright forerunner to the skies of his people, yet to rise.**

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM: "I Want to Thank You" (Song for Mom) Wendy Olson

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴⁻⁴⁶ No sooner were these words out of Peter's mouth than the Holy Spirit came on the listeners. The believing Jews who had come with Peter couldn't believe it, couldn't believe that the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on "outsider" non-Jews, but there it was—they heard them speaking in tongues, heard them praising God. ⁴⁶⁻⁴⁸ Then Peter said, "Do I hear any objections to baptizing these friends with water? They've received the Holy Spirit exactly as we did." Hearing no objections, he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay on for a few days.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: "Now the Green Blade Rises" #379 ELW

**Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.**

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

⁹⁻¹⁰ "I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done—kept my Father's commands and made myself at home in his love.

¹¹⁻¹⁵ "I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father. ¹⁶ "You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you. ¹⁷ "But remember the root command: Love one another.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN: "Jesus Loves Me" #595 ELW vss. 1-3

**vs. 1: Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.**

***Refrain:* Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.**

**vs. 2: Jesus loves me! he who died heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. *Refrain***

**vs. 3: Jesus loves me! he will stay close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high. *Refrain***

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Honk your horns after each petition.

P: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A Brief Silence.

P: Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church and hymn writer. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering. Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with the dying. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives. Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/3 Year Old Bibles

BLESSING

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever..

C: Amen.

Honk your horns one last time.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

SENDING HYMN: "They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love"

**vs. 1: We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.**

**Chorus: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**vs. 2: We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. Chorus**

**vs. 3: We will work with each other, We will work side by side,
We will work with each other, We will work side by side,
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride. Chorus**

POSTLUDE: "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve" Howeis/Carlson