



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
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MAY 1, 2022
Third Sunday of Easter
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

REFLECTION

Jesus never takes them back to the site of the execution. He never gathers his followers at Calvary, never points to the blood-stained hill, and never instructs them to meet him there. He never valorizes the events of Friday. He never mentions them. Yes, wounds remain, but how he got them isn't mentioned. Instead, almost all the post-resurrection appearances — which are joyful and celebratory and conversational — take place at the upper room table or at other tables and meals. ~ Diane Butler Bass

PRELUDE

Partita on "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

arr. John Ferguson

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

May the God of resounding joy be with you!

And also with you!

Easter people, may your hearts be filled with joy!

May God fill our emptiness with the carols of angels!

Children of the resurrection, lift your praises to God!

We join with all creation in shouting our praise to the One who loves us!

****HYMN No. 515, St. 1-4**

I Come with Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

I come with joy, a child of God,
Forgiven, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall,
In love laid down for me,
In love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
To find, as all are fed,
The new community of love
In Christ's communion bread.
In Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
Each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
And strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,
Unseen, but ever near,
Is in such friendship better known,
Alive among us here,
Alive among us here.

OPENING PRAYER *(In Unison)*

O Risen Lord, we choose not to give in to fear: even when we are threatened by violence and abuse, we choose to believe in the power of love. We choose not to be led by despair: even when dreams fail and the world seems to grow colder and more broken, we choose to believe in the power of hope. We choose not to be blinded by cynicism: even when joy and celebration feel naïve and frivolous, we choose to believe in the power of faith. We choose not to be over-awed by death: even when grief shuts out all other voices, we choose to believe in the power of life. In every time, in each place, with all people, may your resurrection rise up within us, and lead us to new, creative, healing choices. Amen.

****HYMN No. 582**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me
Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be. Amen.

GLORY TO GOD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

From the End of the Earth

Alan Hovhaness

GOSPEL READING

John 20:1-18

MESSAGE

Easter in a Daze

Rev. William Schram & Sarah Solie

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE *(John 20:19)*

"When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

In the wake of the strange reports from Mary Magdalene of Jesus in the garden, the frightened disciples had gone back to the upper room. They had gone back to the room with the table, their last gathering place.

We thank you for places of gathering with you, Lord.

Breaking bread on the road to Emmaus, cooking fish on the beach,

Thank you for reunions that are joyful and celebratory and conversational.

Thank you that almost all the post-resurrection appearances take place at the upper room table or at other tables and meals.

Thank you for the movement of Holy Week from table, to trial, to cross, to tomb and back to table.

Thank you for letting us share the Last Supper of the Old World. The last meal under Rome, the last meal under any empire. And it is the First Feast of the Kingdom That Has Come. The first meal of the new age, the world in of mutual service, reciprocity, equality, abundance, generosity, and unending thanksgiving. Amen

****HYMN No. 592**

Holy, Holy, Holy
Holy, holy, holy, God of power and God of might!
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed, blessed, blessed is one who comes in the name of God.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna! Hosanna!
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

SANCTUS

CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

SHARING IN COMMUNION

HYMN No. 602

"Lamb of God"

AGNUS DEI

Sung during the sharing of communion

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Grant us peace; grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(In Unison)*

We thank You, Lord, for re-igniting the flame of hope within us. Because of you, we can go now, as hope-carriers to a world in despair. We thank you for filling our hearts with light and evicting the darkness, and for giving a new vision of Your glory. Because of you, we can go now, as light-bearers to a world in darkness. We go in the name of Christ, in the love of God and in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

****HYMN No. 749**

Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED

Come! Live in the light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom,

To live in the freedom of the city of God.

We are called to act with justice:

We are called to love tenderly;

We are called to serve one another,

To walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart!

Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless,

So hatred and violence will be no more.

We are called to act with justice:

We are called to love tenderly;

We are called to serve one another,

To walk humbly with God.

Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign, and we'll walk with each other,

As sisters and brothers united in love.

We are called to act with justice:

We are called to love tenderly;

We are called to serve one another,

To walk humbly with God.

****BENEDICTION**

****HYMN No. 515, St. 5**

I Come with Joy
Together met, together bound
By all that God has done;
We'll go with joy, to give the world
The love that makes us one,
The love that makes us one.

DOVE OF PEACE

POSTLUDE

Fanfare & Choral

Kenneth T. Kosche

*****Those who are able may stand***

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Rev. Barbara Piercy
Noel Piercy
Susan Jones
Chancel Choir
Sarah Solie, Soloist
Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers