

ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 21, 2017

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Please sign and pass the Friendship Book (“pew pad”) where you can also record any prayer requests. Our prayer is that you will experience the presence of the Living God as we worship together. We invite you to focus your heart and mind in worship.

** indicates please stand as you are able.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Don Meekhof

PRELUDE

“Song Without Words”

Organ

James Mansfield

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Rev. Don Meekhof

Grace and peace to you!

**We will bless God who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing.**

In Christ we have obtained an inheritance.

We have been redeemed as God’s own people.

Praise be to God!

Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from “Feasting on the Word worship Companion.” ©2015

*SONGS OF WORSHIP:

(PURPLE HYMNAL #401)

“GATHER US IN”

(VERSE 1)

Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in—the lost and forsaken,
gather us in—the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

(VERSE 2)

We are the young—our lives are a myst’ry.
We are the old—who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of hist’ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in—the rich and the haughty,
gather us in—the proud and the strong;

give us a heart so meek and so lowly;
give us courage to enter the song.

(VERSE 3)

Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

(VERSE 4)

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light-years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all people together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

©1982, GIA Publications, Inc., Marty Haugen All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License
#A715065

“COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING”

(Hymn #45)

(VERSE 1)

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise his name I'm fixed upon it
name of God's redeeming love.

(VERSE 2)

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope by thy good pleasure,

safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
bought me with his precious blood.

(VERSE 3)

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

TIME OF PRAYER

Danielle Hand

Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from "Feasting on the Word worship Companion." ©2015

Call to Confession

Brother and sisters,
God not only asks us to repent,
but also assures us of forgiveness.
Therefore, let us confess our sins
to the one who is steadfast love.

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God,
we do not always keep your commandments;
we fail to love you;
our conscience is not clear.
Wash us in the water of life
that we may live again
through the grace and mercy of Jesus,
our resurrected Savior. Amen.**

[Silent Prayer]

Declaration of Forgiveness

Sisters and brothers,
God forgives, restores, and strengthens us
through the risen Christ.

Know that you are forgiven
and be at peace.

Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from "Feasting on the Word worship Companion." ©2015

SPECIAL MUSIC

Cantate Domino - Nancy Hill Cobb

Al Shlosa - Allan Naplin

**Preparatory Choir of Crescendo Children's Chorus
directed by Sharon Rodkey Smith**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Don Meekhof

OFFERING OF OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS

Danielle Hand

Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from "Feasting on the Word worship Companion." ©2015

Invitation to the Offering

God, the divine giver,
gifts us with life and breath and all that is.
In gratitude, let us offer our gifts in return
for the goodness and grace of God in Christ.

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication

O loving God, we give you thanks;
that you have placed in the hearts of your faithful people
the gift of generosity and the desire to keep your
commands.

Bless these gifts and use them to reveal to all tribes,
nations, and peoples
your love in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from "Feasting on the Word worship Companion." ©2015

*You may bring your offering and light a candle at the front or back
of the sanctuary.*

The children are excused at this time to attend Junior Chapel.

SCRIPTURE READING

Bill Colvin

Jeremiah 31:10–14 (NIV)

¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, you nations;
proclaim it in distant coastlands:

‘He who scattered Israel will gather them
and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’

¹¹ For the Lord will deliver Jacob
and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.

¹² They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion;
they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord—
the grain, the new wine and the olive oil,
the young of the flocks and herds.

They will be like a well-watered garden,
and they will sorrow no more.

¹³ Then young women will dance and be glad,
young men and old as well.

I will turn their mourning into gladness;
I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

¹⁴ I will satisfy the priests with abundance,
and my people will be filled with my bounty,”
declares the Lord.

Ephesians 1:1–14 (NIV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To God’s holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every
spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before
the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his
sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship
through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and
will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has
freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have
redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in

accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

MESSAGE

Nancy Goodwin

“Hidden Riches”

***CLOSING HYMN:**

“WE ARE CALLED TO BE GOD’S PEOPLE”

(Hymn #710)

(VERSE 1)

We are called to be God's people,
showing by our lives his grace,
one in heart and one in spirit, sign of hope for all the race.

Let us show how he has changed us,
and remade us as his own,

let us share our life together as we shall around his throne.

(VERSE 2)

We are called to be God's servants,
working in his world today;
taking his own task upon us, all his sacred words obey.
Let us rise, then, to his summons,
dedicate to him our all,
that we may be faithful servants, quick to answer now his call.

(VERSE 3)

We are called to be God's prophets,
speaking for the truth and right,
standing firm for godly justice, bringing evil things to light.
Let us seek the courage needed,
our high calling to fulfill,
that the world may know the blessing of the doing of God's will.

BENEDICTION

Nancy Goodwin

POSTLUDE

Organ

“Take the Name of Jesus With You”

Stewart Landon

* * * * *

*We welcome the **Crescendo Children's Chorus** today as they join us in worship. We are privileged to have them with us on several Sundays each year, and they rehearse here at Knox on Monday evenings during the school year. Welcome ~ and thank you for sharing your music with us!*

* * * * *

In the pulpit today: Nancy Goodwin