

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 10, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE **“Draw Me Close”** **Words and Music by Kelly Carpenter**
Arranged by Mark Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us offer our worship to God, who grants us peace and offers us refuge.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

Come with joy, with gratitude, with eagerness to worship God.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, in Christ you have shown us the way, revealed to us your truth, and offered to us everlasting life. Keep our eyes upon him, so that we may see your path more clearly, know your truth more fully, and receive your life more abundantly; through Christ who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in eternal glory. Amen.

HYMN 624 I GREET THEE, WHO MY SURE REDEEMER ART **Strasbourg Psalms**
Attrib. John Calvin

**I greet thee, who my sure redeemer art,
My only trust and savior of my heart,
Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
I pray thee, from our hearts all cares to take.**

**Thou art the king of mercy and of grace,
Reigning omnipotent in every place;
So come, O king, and our whole being sway;
Shine on us with the light of Thy pure day.**

**Thou art the life by which alone we live
And all our substance and our strength receive;
Sustain us by Thy faith and by Thy pow'r,
And give us strength in ev'ry trying hour.**

**Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness;
No harshness hast thou and no bitterness.
O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
That we may dwell in perfect unity.**

**Our hope is in no other save in thee;
Our faith is built upon Thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace and make us calm and sure,
That in Thy strength we evermore endure.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Whoever believes in Christ will not be put to shame. Confident in this promise, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Creator, your word offers freedom from sin, but we confess that we have not always obeyed your word. We have harbored malice toward our enemies; we have been deceitful in our relationships; we have been insincere in our commitments; through gossip we have slandered our friends. Forgive us our sins and lead us to genuine repentance. Help your children long for your pure, spiritual milk that we may grow into the joy of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Sisters and brothers, once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Alleluia!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of all creation, send your Holy Spirit among us this day, that the seed of your Word might take root in our hearts, and bear the fruits of peace, love, and justice for all. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 7:55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

²**Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.**

³You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

⁴**take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.**

⁵Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

¹⁵**My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.**

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

1 Peter 2:2-10

²**Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—** ³**if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.**

⁴**Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and** ⁵**like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.** ⁶**For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."** ⁷**To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,"** ⁸**and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall."** They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹**But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.** ¹⁰**Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.**

SERMON Are All These People Your Friends?

HYMN 301 LET US BUILD A HOUSE

Marty Haugen

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
A banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasure, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (United Church of Canada)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

HYMN 394 CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION John Mason Neale

**Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious, binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever, and her confidence alone.**

To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with all your loving-kindness hear thy servants as we pray,
and your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.

Here bestow on all your servants, what they ask of you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three, and ever one;
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE **“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”**
 Words and Music by Peter Scholtes
 Arranged by Mark Hayes

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