

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Jeff Knol

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRELUDE

At the Fountain

Dana Suesse

CALL TO WORSHIP – *Inspired by 1 John 3:16-24*

We gather in the presence of our gracious God.

We come with open hearts, seeking the light of God's divine love to guide us.

As we gather, let us remember the words in the letter of 1st John,

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us."

As we enter worship, let us embody this sacrificial love in all we do.

May our actions speak louder than our words, reflecting the love of Christ to the world.

Let us abide in God's love, for as we do, we find assurance and confidence in our faith.

In love, we find the courage to approach God with boldness, knowing that God hears and answers our prayers.

Let our worship today be a testament to the love that binds us together as one body in Christ.

Amen!

OPENING HYMN *Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show*

Henry Francis Lyte, 1834; alt.

Robert Williams, 1817
Harm. David Evans, 1927

1. Praise the Lord, God's glo - ries show,
2. Earth to heav-en and heav-en to earth, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. Praise the Lord, great mer - cies trace,

Saints with - in God's courts be - low,
Tell the won - ders, sing God's worth, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise this prov - i - dence and grace,

An - gels round the throne a - bove,
Age to age and shore to shore, Al - le - lu - ia!
All that God for us has done,

All that see and share God's love.
Praise God, praise for - ev - er - more! Al - le - lu - ia!
All God sends us through the Son.

Music: Harmonization from the *Revised Church Hymnary 1927*. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Present, living, and merciful God, we humbly come before you, acknowledging our need for Jesus' saving power and grace. Without him, we are lost in the darkness, stumbling in our own limitations. Jesus came to gather us like lost sheep, to illuminate our path, and to lift us from the crushing weight of sin. He came to give us new life.

We confess that in our fear and our self-sufficiency, we hold your gift of salvation at arms' length. In a world groaning under the weight of evil and sin, grant us softened and renewed hearts, open to receive Jesus' gifts of heavenly bread, living water, clearer sight, and new resurrection life. In Your mercy, lead us into the fullness of Your grace... *Time of Silent Reflection*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Beloved in Christ, let us take comfort in the assurance of forgiveness found in the tender mercy of our risen friend and savior, Jesus Christ. After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples, not to chastise their fears, doubts, or unbelief, but to offer them a word of peace. They had fears and doubts; he brought calmness and assurance.

Just as Jesus breathed upon his disciples, imparting to them the Holy Spirit, so too does he breathe upon us, filling us with his divine presence and empowering us for his work. Despite our weaknesses and failings, Jesus calls us to continue his mission of love, mercy, and reconciliation in the world.

Therefore, let us rest in the knowledge that through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we are empowered to walk in his grace. May his peace dwell within us, guiding our steps and renewing our spirits each day. Let us stand to sing our thankful response.

SEASONAL RESPONSE

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways.
Reclothe us in our rightful mind.
In purer lives Thy service find, in deeper reverence, praise.**

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING John 21:1-14

SERMON

Robbie Bendelius

HYMN

Thine Is the Glory

Edmond Louis Budry, 1884
 Trans. R. Birch Hoyle, 1923; alt.

George Frederick Handel, 1748

1. Thine is the glo - ry, Ris-en, con- quering Son; End-less is the
 2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, Ris-en from the tomb; Lov-ing-ly He
 3. No more we doubt Thee, Glo-rious Prince of life! Life is nought with -

vic - tory Thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets us, Scat - ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad - ness
 out Thee; Aid us in our strife. Make us more than con-querors

Rolled the stone a - way, Kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 Hymns of tri - umph sing, For the Lord now liv - eth;
 Through Thy death-less love; Bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain (last time only)

Where Thy bod - y lay.
 Death hath lost its sting.
 To Thy home a - bove. Thine is the glo - ry, Ris-en, con- quering Son;

End - less is the vic - tory Thou o'er death hast won.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

SONG OF PRAISE

**Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment, fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Dearest God, your prophet Isaiah predicted that you would bring about
a new heaven and a new earth. Your Son, Jesus Christ rose from death
to life as the first fruits of that new creation. His new life has given us
life. His new life has given us forgiveness. His new life has given us
peace. We live from the treasure trove of his new life. Today we
remember and celebrate what you have given to us. Today, we return
an offering of what is already yours. Receive our gifts and bless them
that they may continue to bear good fruit for your everlasting kingdom.
Amen.**

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he
rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the
right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to
judge the quick and the dead.**

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

PASTORAL PRAYER with 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

HYMN

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Jeffery W. Rowthorn, 1978

Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941

1. Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
2. Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
3. Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
4. Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they

preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion, And the
tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise, Life a -
this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry, Dai - ly
do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure All that

gos - pel go un - heard, Help us wit - ness to your pur - pose
bun - dant meant for each, Give us all new fer - vor, draw us
lift life heav - en - ward, Ask - ing that the world a - round us
you so free - ly give. May your care and mer - cy lead us

With re - newed in - teg - ri - ty;
Clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty; With the Spir - it's
Share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty;
To a just so - ci - e - ty;

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CLOSING BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Sonata in A, Op. 2, No. 3:
III. Scherzo: Allegro

Beethoven