



April 28, 2024
5th Sunday of Easter
Worship Sunday

Leading Worship Today:

Pastor: Brian Entz

Lay Leader: Kathy Quady

Accompanist: Ralph Johansen

*Please read along with all **Bold** text
All are invited to stand when there is an **

Larger Print Hymns: Please see an usher if you would like a copy of larger print hymns.

Children's Bulletins: Please see an usher if you are interested in a children's bulletin.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*I saw a stranger yestreen
I put food in the eating place
Drink in the drinking place.
Music in the hearing place.
In the sacred name of the Triune,
he blessed myself and-my house,
my cattle and my dear ones.
And the lark sang in her song
"Often comes the Christ in the stranger's guise,
Often comes the Christ in the stranger's guise"
-A Gaelic Rune of Hospitality*

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to the LORD because God is good,
because God's faithful love lasts forever.

Open the gates of righteousness for me
so I can come in and give thanks to the LORD!

This is the LORD's gate;
those who are righteous enter through it.

I thank you because you answered me,
because you were my saving help.

*OPENING SONGS

Oh How He Loves You And Me

Verse 1

Oh how He loves you and me Oh how He loves
you and me He gave His life What more could
He give Oh how He loves you Oh how He loves
me Oh how He loves you and me

Verse 2

Jesus to Calv'ry did go
His love for sinners to show
What He did there
Brought hope from despair
Oh how He loves you
Oh how He loves me
Oh how He loves you and me

Because He Lives (Amen)

Verse 1

I believe in the Son
I believe in the Risen One
I believe I overcome
By the power of His blood

Chorus

Amen amen
I'm alive I'm alive because He lives
Amen amen
Let my song join the one that never ends
Because He lives

Verse 2

I was dead in the grave
I was covered in sin and shame
I heard mercy call my name
He rolled the stone away

Bridge

Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives ev'ry fear is gone
I know He holds my life
My future in His hand

Chorus

Chorus

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus came into the world to call each of us to follow, not because we are perfect or prepared, but because each of us is loved by God. With the confidence of the beloved of God, let us humbly confess our sin together.

O Love, our God, you call us to proclaim the gospel, but we remain silent in the presence of evil. You call us to be reconciled to you and one another, but we are content to live in separation. You call us to seek the good of all, but we fail to resist the powers of oppression. You call us to love our neighbors and care for those in need, but too often we sit idly by, endangering the lives of people far and near.

Forgive us, O God. Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage and strength to be reconciled to others; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God did not send the Son to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus Christ, I declare that we are forgiven and set free!

Alleluia, Amen!

***RESPONSE**

#447 We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

Leader: Therefore, since we have been made righteous through Christ's faithfulness, we have peace with God. Let us also share peace with one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

The people may exchange with their immediate neighbors, by words or gesture, signs of peace and reconciliation.

WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Help us, O God, to set aside all thoughts that are not of you, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed we may engage with curiosity and reverence what you say to us today. Amen.

EPISTLE READING

1 John 4:7-21 (NRSV)

7Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19We love because he first loved us. 20Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 21The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE SONG

#452 Open the Eyes of My Heart

GOSPEL READING

John 15:1-8 (NRSV)

1“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 2He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SONG OF PRAISE

#490 Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 8:26-40 (NRSV)

26Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) 27So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” 30So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” [37And Phillip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he replied, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”] 38He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

The Rev. Brian Entz

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING

Abide With Me

arr. Hanson

*“Let us present ourselves to God as those
who have been delivered from death to life”.*
To give online, please scan the QR code.



*PRAISE REFRAIN

#710 We Lift Our Voices

We lift our voices, we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

*OFFERING PRAYER

*AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

from The Confession of 1967

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God’s forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We praise you O God for your grace poured out upon us by your Holy Spirit, for your everlasting love, and your steadfast presence. **We praise you O God.**

We praise you O God for the beauty of your creation, from the smallest of insects to the tallest of mountains. **We praise you O God.** We thank you for the ways your creation provides for our needs and pray we might be good stewards of all you have made.

We praise you O God for the communities you have made for our home and for the nation we live in. **We praise you O God.** We pray for those in positions of leadership, that they may be wise, humble, and just in all they do. Empower us to live in love towards our neighbors and to serve them in the way of Jesus.

We praise you O God for your compassion for those in need and your solidarity with those who suffer. **We praise you O God.** Bless all who are oppressed, hurting, and made to feel less than your beloved children. Bring to them whatever relief, comfort, and justice they need and use us wherever possible to be the means of your compassion.

We praise you O God for healing mercies and tender presence. **We praise you O God.** Be with all who are sick, injured, or in recovery and bring healing and comfort to them and their loved ones. Especially we pray for...

We praise you O God for your comfort in grief and the promise that death does not have the final word. **We praise you O God.** Bring comfort and peace to all who grieve and renew our hope in your promise of resurrection life. Especially we pray for...

We praise you O God for the gift of your Church. **We praise you O God.** We give you thanks that you have called each of us to be a part of this family, your body, here and in eternity. Help us, by your grace, to be faithful disciples of Jesus; living in love, extending the mercy we have been given, and glorifying you in all we do.

We praise you O God for Jesus Christ, your incarnate Word, our source and salvation who taught us to pray saying...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

SENDING

*CLOSING SONG

God So Loved

Verse 1

Come all you weary
Come all you thirsty
Come to the well that never runs dry
Drink of the water
Come and thirst no more

Chorus 1

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever

Chorus 2

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever
The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved God so loved the world

Verse 2

Come all you sinners
Come find His mercy
Come to the table He will satisfy
Taste of His goodness
Find what you're looking for

Verse 3

Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting there
With open arms

*BENEDICTION AND SENDING

*BLESSING EACH OTHER

The Blessing

Verse

The Lord bless you and keep you
Make his face shine upon you
And be gracious to you the Lord turn his
Face toward you and give you peace

Chorus

Amen Amen Amen

POSTLUDE

Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus

WORSHIP NOTES

The Call to Worship is taken from Psalm 118. (CEB)
All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

MUSIC LICENSES

O How He Loves You and Me CCLI Song # 15850 Kurt Kaiser © 1975 Curb Word Music

Because He Lives (Amen) CCLI Song # 7027887 Chris Tomlin | Daniel Carson | Ed Cash | Gloria Gaither | Jason Ingram | Matt Maher | William J. Gaither © 2014 Capitol CMG Paragon; Rising Springs Music; S. D. G. Publishing; Twelve Lions Music; Worship Together Music; worshiptogether.com songs; Be Essential Songs; I Am A Pilgrim Songs; Open Hands Music; So Essential Tunes; Hanna Street Music

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENTS

Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers TODAY: The Session is calling a congregational meeting to elect officers after worship today. At this time we will hear the report of the nominating committee.

Art of Storytelling: Everyone has a story! Join me as we discuss how to begin this great adventure of exploring our inner library of experiences. TODAY during CCC, presented by Carla Caruso, Guided Autobiography Instructor/Facilitator and Therapeutic Life Coach.

“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside of you.” Maya Angelou

Spring Cleanup Day: Come one! Come all! Join us on Saturday , **May 4, 2024**, for our Annual Spring Cleanup Day!! We have much work to do and need many hands to do it! Your Buildings & Grounds Committee is busy finalizing the list of activities which will be announced NLT Sunday, April 28th! Check it out and decide which tasks best suit your skills and desires! Look forward to having lots of folks share in this wonderful work!

More Than We Can Imagine: It's time to start thinking about Synod School! This annual gathering will take place on the campus of Buena Vista University in Storm Lake Iowa from July 21-26. Synod School is an all ages camp/conference with worship, classes, and activities for all ages and interests. There are some scholarships available through the Synod and the Session has made \$100 scholarships available for BPC folks. Please talk to Pastor Brian for more information. If you have questions about what Synod School is like you may contact Mike and Kathy Quady. Registration is now open. For more information and to register, please use this link:

<https://lakesandprairies.org/engaging-leaders/synod-school/>

OTHER

Classes, Coffee, & Conversations: Join us after worship to learn about the **Art of Storytelling**. Next week, we will be going over the **Potential Land Sale Update**.

Potential Land Sale Update: At the annual meeting in January, members indicated that they would like to explore the sale of a small parcel of land at the southwest corner of our property. The Session will update you with information on that possibility at Coffee, Classes, and Conversations on **Sunday, May 5**, following worship. Steve Grittman, Buffalo's planning consultant, will be there as a resource for us as we consider what we might do. Any sale would require approval by the congregation and the presbytery.

Buffalo Days Parade: The Communications Committee is determining whether we will participate in the Buffalo Days Parade this year. We are planning to decorate and put signage on a pick-up truck but we need "riders." We are looking for 6-8 people to ride, smile and wave. There is no need to audition. Please sign up in the lobby or let Christy or Brian know. This is a great opportunity to get our name in front of thousands of people at no cost

How can we pray for you?

Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.



BPC Prayer List:

- Pam Klemz, following her husband Arv's death
- DeBellis family upon the death of Kaiser, Al's 3 month old great-grandson
- The Gritman Family, following Amy's death
- Zoe Ellwoods
- Jerry Aldrich
- Linda & Tyler, Patty (in hospice), friends of Bonnie Morek
- Kitty Johansen
- Donna, a friend of Lana Kopplin, who has cancer
- Jill, the niece of Al DeBellis, who has terminal illness
- Kelly, daughter of Al DeBellis, who has cancer
- Gary, Chuck Klaassen's brother-in-law, was in a serious car crash
- Jonathon, a friend of Barb & Larry Janski
- Shannon, Virginia's former daughter-in-law
- Al DeBellis
- Daniel Elliot
- Erva Hance
- Barb and Tom Stone
- Jan Brown, early morning Women of Faith
- Dennis Dietz, Virginia's friend
- Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter
- Jimm and Jodie Underwood, Lanny & Shirley's son-in-law and daughter
- Brittany Daniels
- John and Charlotte Collins
- Janice Sorby
- Mark Lawlor

For all people and places recovering from disasters both natural and human caused.

For peace in Ukraine, Israel/Palestine, Congo, and around the world.

For our neighbor congregations in Buffalo and for the congregations of our presbytery.

Upcoming This Week

Today

9:30a Worship
10:30a Classes, Coffee & Conversations-
Art of Storytelling

Monday

7:00p AA

Tuesday

9:00a Crafty Ladies
9:00a Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe
7:00p Container Garden Class

Wednesday

7:00p Adult Choir

Thursday

7:30a People of Faith
10:00a Women of Faith
5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group
7:00p Communications Committee Meeting

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

9:30a Worship
10:30a Classes, Coffee & Conversations-
Potential Land Sale Update

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452 Open the Eyes of My Heart

O-pen the eyes of my heart, Lord. O-pen the eyes of my heart;

I want to see you; I want to see you;

to see you high and lift - ed up,

shin-ing in the light of your glo - ry. Pour out your

pow-er and love as we sing "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly."

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, I want to see you.

The initial petition of this song is based on the language of Ephesians 1:18, while the second part draws on the account of Isaiah's vision in Isaiah 6:1-5. That event, in turn, is the basis of the threefold *Sanctus* that has become a traditional element in Christian worship.

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (G)
F Dm B \flat

1 Wash, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, new - born crea - tures
2 Ev - ery day we need your nur - ture; by your milk may
3 O how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - i - mag - ined,

(D) (Bm)
F Dm

of your womb. Num-ber them a - mong your peo - ple, raised like
we be fed. Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of
all your ways! To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our

(G) (D) (A)
B \flat F C

Christ from death and tomb. Weave them gar - ments bright and
bless - ing, liv - ing bread. God, re - new us; guide our
lives we wor - ship, praise! We your peo - ple stand be -

(Bm) (F \sharp m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)
Dm Am Dm B \flat C F

spark-ling; com-press them with love and light. Fill, a - noint them;
foot - steps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in
fore you, wa - ter-washed and Spir - it - born. By your grace, our

(Bm) (G) (D)
Dm B \flat F

send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.
liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.
lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text incorporates many of the images associated with the water of baptism in the Thanksgiving Over the Water in *The Book of Common Worship*, especially nourishment, the calling forth of life, cleansing and renewal, freedom from bondage, and sharing in Christ's resurrection.