### Let's Worship!

April 7, 2024—10:30 AM Second Sunday of Easter

A Hybrid Worship Experience In-Person and Online

Today's worship team—Music Director: Jayne McDonough, Worship Leader: Marjorie Wetherill;

Message: Pastor, Rev. David Wenker; Production: Norris Clark



## WELCOME! ENJOY WORSHIP WORSHIP YOUR WAY!

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#### **Message Preview**

As we become more disconnected from our families, our faith and our communities we loose our sense of identity, who we are. Reclaiming our identity as God's beloved children is

challenging. It starts by listening to God speak in our hearts that we are his beloved. Without hearing that affirmation in the core of our being we are left with a crushing sense of insecurity, hiding, pretending and trying to prove we really are someone. Join me as we begin a 5 part series on "Learning to live as the Beloved".

#### Music Preview

The opening hymn is "The Day of Resurrection", originally written in Greek by St. John Damascene, known also as John of Damascus, AD 655 to around AD 745. According to tradition, he was a monk at the St. Sabbas Monastery. He is considered one of the most important hymnagraphers of the Eastern Church. J. M. Neale translated the hymn into English. He was ordained in the Church of England in 1842.

The hymn of Preparation for Communion is "Oh, How He Loves You and Me". The chorus was written by Kurt Kaiser, also well known for the song, Pass It On. Kurt Kaiser was born in 1934 in Chicago, Illinois. He is an award winning songwriter of Contemporary

Christian music and a member of the Gospel Hall of Fame. Often we hear a phrase that might inspire us and that seems to be the origin behind O How He Loves You and Me. Kaiser says, "In 1975, I sat down to think about that phrase and the whole song quickly came to me. I could not have spent more than 10 or 15 minutes writing the whole of it. That's how rapidly it all came, the lyrics and the melody together.

Our closing hymn is "Jesus Loves Even Me", was written and composed by Bliss after attending a meeting where the song "O How I Love Jesus" was sung often. He thought, "Have I not been singing enough about my poor love for Jesus and shall I not rather sing of His great love for me?" The hymn became one of the all-time favorite children's hymns, gaining popularity in both Great Britain and the United States.

PRELUDE: JAYNE McDonough

WELCOME: PASTOR DAVID WENKER

#### GOD WELCOMES ALL (UNISON):

(1-10:33)

God welcomes all, strangers and friends; God's love is strong and it never ends.

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (PSALM 8) (RESPONSIVE):

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise...

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, what is man that you are mindful of him, ... You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

## O, Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

#### **OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)**

God of abundance we gather to give you thanks and worship you for your sufficiency. Your grace and mercy flows abundantly fresh and new each morning. You have provided for us physically and spiritually every day of our lives, even the days we could not see how we would get through. Open our eyes in fresh ways today to see you as the God who has all the resources of the universe at your disposal to bring to your children. We praise you in Jesus name AMEN

#### MUSIC: THE DAY OF RESURRECTION BLUE #118

1. The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness,
The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
From this world to the sky,
Our Christ has brought us over
With hymns of victory.

- 2. Our hearts be pure from evil, That we may see aright The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light; And, listening to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain, His own "All hail!" and hearing, May raise the victor strain.
- 3. Now let the heavens be joyful, Let earth her song begin, Let the round world keep triumph, And all that is therein; Let all things seen and unseen Their notes of gladness blend, For Christ the Lord is risen, Our joy that hath no end.

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

When we stand at the baptismal font and confess our sins we are not doing so as lost, guilty and ambiguous human beings who are not sure of our standing before God. We do not come groveling, but we come confident as those who are no longer dead in our trespasses but who are already alive in Jesus Christ. Without God's grace, we would not even know we are sinners. So we confess together:

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

We admit our reluctance to let go of our resentment and anger. We are even reluctant to give it to you. We admit we justify holding onto our anger with the hurt we have received. We admit our decision to hold onto anger hurts others. Rather than serving and being a blessing to others we dump our bad attitudes on them, sometimes not even realizing we are hurting others. Forgive us. Heal us. Grant us courage to surrender our hurts to you. We pray in Jesus name. AMEN

SILENT REFLECTION

#### HEAR THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE (RESPONSIVE)

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone and a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

#### THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (UNISON):

Divine Redeemer, bearer of life, open us to the wisdom of your Word today and enlighten us with your truth. Liberate us from all that distracts us and turns us from your path. Guide us and ground us in Christ's everlasting hope. Amen.

#### FIRST READING: ISAIAH 43: 1-7

But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the

north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." This is the word of the Lord

#### Thanks be to God

#### GOSPEL READING: 1 JOHN 2:28-3:3

God's Children and Sin

And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him. See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

# Message: "Learning to Live as God's Beloved" Pastor David Wenker PRAYER AND SILENT REFLECTION

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - 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.

#### GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

We become who we are called to be not

through getting, acquiring and possessing but in our giving. To that end, let us worship God by giving our good gifts.

#### THE DOXOLOGY

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

#### PRAYER OF GRATITUDE



#### **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!**

Anniversaries Happy Birthday to Little James Dodd, Jr (4/8) AND KEVIN BEARE (4/8), LINDA KAEMPF (4/9).

#### **COMMUNITY NEWS -**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Prayers for: Keith Palek-cancer struggles; Dale & Jonna Myers family in California, in auto accident, daughter in law and grandson are improving, Their son Greg with serious injuries. Comfort for the family of Bob Lorusso on his passing; Patty Leisner, recovering from a stroke; Elaine Jordan, prayers for good test results.

Those on hospice care: John Stalford, Bob Fite, Gertrude Hess, Celeste Bashaw.

Those undergoing cancer treatment: Keith, Todd, Brian, Gerri Mills, Robin B, Mike, Kim, Steve, Rickey, Lorraine, Grover, Glenn, Candy, and Donna.

## HYMN OF PREPARATION: OH, HOW HE LOVES YOU AND ME, RED HYMNAL #558

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! (Repeat)

Invitation To All: Come To The Lord's Table!
The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
(Responsive)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, God of Hope, Breath of peace, Giver of all life.....

as Jesus taught us to pray, saying,

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.

Words of Institution - Rev. Wenker Prayer of Thanksgiving

#### FRESH EXPRESSION OF COMMUNITY

Once we were strangers,
Now we are neighbors.
Once we were strangers,
Now we are friends.

#### MUSIC: JESUS LOVES EVEN ME, RED HYMNAL #243

- 1. I am so glad that our Father in heaven Tells of His love in the book He has giv'n; Wonderful things in the Bible I see— This is the dearest, that Jesus loves me. I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me, I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves even me.
- 2. Though I forget Him and wander away, Still He doth love me wherever I stray;

Back to His dear loving arms would I flee, When I remember that Jesus loves me. I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me; I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves even me.

3. Oh, if there's only one song I can sing, When in His beauty I see the great King, This shall my song in eternity be: "Oh, what a wonder that Jesus loves me!" I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me, I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves even me.

#### **BENEDICTION: PASTOR DAVID WENKER**

POSTLUDE: JAYNE McDonough

So glad you've joined us. Please share your worship experience with others on our YouTube channel, Facebook, and Instagram. View worship at any time on our YouTube page. Invite others to join you next week.

#### Notes for Today's Worship:

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- 1. The Day of Resurrection: John Mason Neale, St. John of Damascus, Xavier Ludwig Harris; CCLI Song #2309598
- 2. God Welcomes All: CCLI #7102394
- 3. Gloria: Public Domain
- 4. Doxology. CCLI #4255578
- 5. Oh, How He Loves You and Me:

Kurt Kaiser; CCLI #15850
6. Jesus Loves Even Me: Philip P. Bliss; CCLI #1842187