

Hearts Overflowing

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

Order of Worship with Communion - 4th Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

(Please be ready with bread and cup.)

Welcome

Call to Worship

In the laughter of children,
we hear the voice of the Gate of the Way,
and find our way home.

**In the lap of a parent,
God's compassion cradles us
in the still waters of love.**

The Shepherd of our lives
leads us through that door
into life with him forever.

**We are baptized with living waters
which refresh us, restoring us
to follow Jesus all our days.**

The Holy Spirit, Keeper of truth,
is the Light, which guides us
through every shadowed moment.

**The Breath of life stills our worries
and fears, as we are lead to that
peaceful place of God's heart.**

Opening hymn "Here in This Place" tune: GATHER US IN
Glory to God #401, verses 1 and 4

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.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
but 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 peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

(Jim Wingate used some vintage synthesizers to create the sounds of a harp, horns, oboe and cellos to accompany this hymn tune.)

Prayer of Praise

First Reading - John 10:1-10

[Jesus said,] "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."

Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Second Reading - Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Prayers of the People

Music "This is My Father's World" on piano by Jim Wingate

Communion

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

You are our shepherd, O Lord, and in you there is nothing we lack.
You lead us to green pastures and still waters; you restore our souls.
You prepare a table before us; the cup of blessing overflows!

We are the sheep of your pasture, and Christ Jesus is the gate.
He came that we might have life, and have it abundantly.
Therefore we listen for his voice and seek to follow him.

Like the first believers, fill us with awe and wonder of your presence,
through your teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer.
Help us to share and to give to those who are in need.

Now, together let us pray the family prayer that Jesus taught us:

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

Invitation

Sharing of Communion

Prayer after Communion

Offering

Closing Hymn "Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah" tune: CWM RHONDDA
Glory to God #65, verse 1

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty.
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

Benediction

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.*

(Members Allison Kelly and Ellette Burke recorded their parts separately and Jim Wingate added the cello underneath via synthesizer.)