

# Kept in Our Hearts

"I will love them and reveal myself to them."

**Worship - 6th Sunday of Easter  
May 17, 2020**

**Liturgist: Clay Boyles  
special music by the NPC choir and Jim Wingate**

**Music as we prepare our hearts and minds for  
worship**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

Bless the Lord, O people, sing!  
**Let the sound of praise ring out.**  
Come and hear what the Lord has done,  
**the Lord who has made everything!**

**Opening hymn** "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" tune: MARION  
*Glory to God #804, verses 1 and 2*

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain:  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

With voice as full and strong  
as ocean's surging praise,  
send forth the sturdy hymns of old,  
the psalms of ancient days.  
(Refrain.)

### **Prayer of Praise**

Living and gracious God,  
through the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ  
you have brought us out to a spacious place  
where we are called to live as those redeemed.  
We offer you thanks and praise!  
Empower us by your Spirit  
to keep your commandments,  
that we may show forth your love  
with gentle word and reverent deed  
to all your people. Amen.

### **First Reading - Psalm 66:8-9, 12b-20**

Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be  
heard,  
who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet  
slip.  
You have brought us out to a spacious place.

I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay  
you my vows,

those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings,  
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;  
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what he has done for me.  
I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.  
But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.  
Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

### **Music - (by the choir - "The Church's One Foundation")**

### **Second Reading - John 14:15-21**

[Jesus said,] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be

loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Meditation**

### **Intro to Pastoral Prayer**

To those of you who are graduating in these days without the usual rites of passage, we celebrate you, we mourn with you what you're missing, we love you and hope with you for a future that is bright and as yet indescribable...

To those of you who are now nine weeks into a time of sheltering all alone that is harder and harder to bear, we see you, we miss you too, we love you and hope with you for bright glimmerings every once in a while, and connections that carry us through this together...

To those of you who are entering a summer with young children whose schedules have suddenly been wiped clean, and who clamor for something to do, we notice with you the enormity of time that seems to swell, we walk alongside you with encouragement, humor, and patience, we love you and give you permission on behalf of you to be relaxed, soothed, and simply "good enough."

Church, may peace be with each one of you as you live inside one day at a time. And if things seem to be too much, reach out.

## **Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

The Pastoral Prayer is a prayer for this day by Thom Shuman.

When it does not seem  
to matter to many, Creator God,  
we will dare to be your people,  
to love those the world  
would have us reject,  
to be just in the face  
of every reason to be cruel,  
to be unafraid  
of whatever awaits us.

When all the odds seem  
stacked against us, Jesus our Savior,  
we still dare to live as  
your sisters and brothers,  
serving others  
even from the safety of our homes,  
sharing in the burdens  
of our neighbors,  
refusing to leave the lonely  
orphaned with no hope.

When the props are knocked  
out from under us  
by fears and worries, Faithful Spirit,  
we dare to breathe  
joy upon those  
caught in the net of hopeless,

peace into all  
the quavering hearts around us,  
wonder for all those  
who look for you but do not see.

In you, we dare to live and breathe and be,  
God in Community, Holy in One,  
even as we pray as we are taught,

**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 think is the kingdom and the power and the  
glory forever.  
Amen.**

## **Offering**

**Closing Hymn** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"  
tune: HYFRYDOL  
*Glory to God* #366, verses 1 and 3

Love Divine, all loves excelling  
Joy of heaven to earth come down  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling  
All thy faithful mercies crown  
Jesus, thou art all compassion  
Pure unbounded love thou art  
Visit us with thy salvation  
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return and never,  
Never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise thee without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.

## **Benediction**

### **Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessing flow.  
Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*