

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.