



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

May 14, 2023

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

Be Still My Soul

Ingram
The Handbell Choir

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Enduring Gladness

Mallory
The Handbell Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God gathers us here.

We have been tested, we have suffered, but God has brought us through.

Come, let us tell of what God has done for us!

We cried aloud to God, and God listened and answered.

Therefore, we will praise God with shouts of joy!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*HYMN 376 (V.1-4)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

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.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God does not reject our prayers.
God does not withdraw love from us.
Even when we fail to love others and struggle to love ourselves, God's love is steadfast.
Let us lift our prayers to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy One, we love you imperfectly:
We do not always keep your commandments.
We love each other imperfectly:
We hurt those you call us to love through our actions and our inaction.
We love ourselves imperfectly:
We struggle to believe that we are truly your children, made in your image.
Forgive us.
By the power of your Spirit, make us more faithful that we might live as Christ has shown us,
reflecting in your love and grace.**

Silent prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Because Christ lives, we also live.

Not because of anything we have done, not because of our belief or faithfulness:

We live because Christ lives.

This is the Christ who forgives us.

This is the God who is in us.

This is the Spirit who is with us.

Alleluia! Praise be to God!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**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.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

John 14:15-21

SERMON

Keep His Commandments

Bill Bartlett

ANTHEM

If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments

Eugene Butler

If you love me, keep my commandments, and my Father will be with you.
He will give you another Counselor to be always with you.

I will not leave you desolate, for I will come, will come to you.
For you will see me because I live, because I live, you will live also.

I am the true vine, and my father is the gardener.
You abide in me, and I in you.

*I am the true vine, you are the branches:
all who abide in me, will bear much fruit.*

If you love me, keep my commandments, and my Father will be with you.
He will give you another Counselor to be always with you.

Even the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit, will be with you.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and God's ministries through Christ's church.

Please leave your offering in the box at the front of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, you meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to witness to Christ's ministry in your world. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 398 (V. 1-2)

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit,
Sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us,
Filling us with Your love;
And for these blessings
We lift our hearts in praise.
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
When we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know Him in His fullness and believe;
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."
Sweet Holy Spirit,
Sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us,
Filling us with Your love;
And for these blessings
We lift our hearts in praise.
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
When we shall leave this place.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Bell Symphony

Purcell

~*~*~

Worship Leaders

Bill Bartlett, Guest Preacher
Gloria Snyder, Organist
Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director
The Chancel Choir
The Handbell Choir
Pat Koefoed, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed

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John 14:15-21

'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 for ever. 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.'