

# Versailles Presbyterian Church

May 5, 2024

Order of Worship  
Sixth Sunday in Easter

10:30 a.m.

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

**Prelude**

For the Beauty of the Earth

*arr. Linda Hartman*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit**

**\*Call to Worship** (Responsive)

*Dan Nehring*

One: Happy are those who find joy in God.

**All: They are like trees planted by streams of water; their faith grows stronger and their joy is seen by all.**

One: Let us worship God with praise and joy!

**Hymn #35**

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;  
join me in glad adoration!

2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
granted in what he ordaineth?

3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again;  
gladly for aye we adore him.

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**Prayer of Praise** (Unison)

**Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit keep us faithful to your Word that we may be one with Christ in faith and love and service. Amen.**

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession** (Unison)

**Nurturing God, we confess today that we have twisted your values. Called to love, we have excluded others. Called to teach, we have hoarded knowledge. Called to encourage others, we have exalted ourselves. Called to share our life, we have been afraid to reach out. Forgive us, O God. Renew us with your grace and teach us to love with all our hearts.**

**Silent Prayer of Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Response** (Sung)

"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.

## HEARING THE WORD

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Reading**

Acts 10:1-20

**Special Music**

I Can Do All Things

*by Ray Mendenhall*

**Scripture Reading**

Acts 10:25-35, 44-48

**Sermon**

“Those People...”

*Dr. Keith Benze*

**Hymn #504**

We Come as Guests Invited

1 We come as guests invited  
when Jesus bids us dine,  
his friends on earth united  
to share the bread and wine;  
the bread of life is broken;  
the wine is freely poured  
for us, in solemn token  
of Christ our dying Lord.

2 We eat and drink, receiving  
from Christ the grace we need,  
and in our hearts believing  
on him by faith we feed;  
with wonder and thanksgiving  
for love that knows no end,  
we find in Jesus living  
our ever-present friend.

3 One bread is ours for sharing,  
one single fruitful vine,  
our fellowship declaring  
renewed in bread and wine:  
renewed, sustained, and given  
by token, sign, and word,  
the pledge and seal of heaven,  
the love of Christ our Lord.

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**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (Unison)

*From the Iona Worship Book*

**We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of women and men. We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a cross. He died forsaken and descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present, and his kingdom will come on earth. We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit and life giving breath, the spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.**

**Collection of Tithes and Offerings**

**The Offertory**

My Faith Looks Up To Thee

*arr. Lowell Mason*

**Response** (Sung)

“Doxology”

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

### Invitation to the Table

#### Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God.

Mighty God, you created all the beauty of our world: the majesty of the mountains, the rhythm of the oceans, the cool summer breezes, and the refreshing spring rains. You created all humanity and made us the center of your creation, bringing us joy in life. When we turned inward and forgot your beauty, you never turned from us, but called us back through your undying grace and love. You took on our flesh and came to live among us, not only loving us, but showing us how to love one another.

Therefore, with all people and all creation, we sing your praise:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

We thank you, O God, for coming to save us from ourselves. Through Jesus' life you showed us how to live. In his death, we faced our hatred, and in his resurrection, you have given us new life in your grace. Through Christ you have shown us that all are worthy of your love. There is no rich or poor, man or woman, black, white or brown, all people are worthy of your love and the respect of one another. It is in loving and respecting one another that we find the true joy of living as your creation.

In celebration of the gift of new life, we take this bread and this cup, and remember all that you have given us. Accept this sacrament, we pray, as a holy and living offering of ourselves to you.

**All: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.**

Gracious God, fill us with your holy Spirit and raise us up to be in holy communion with one another and with the risen and living Christ, that the bread we break and the cup we drink may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. As this bread is Christ's body for us, make us Christ's body to the world.

Through the new life you have given us in the resurrection, give us the wisdom and courage to love as you have loved us. As Christ gave his life for us, help us to live our lives in humility and service. We praise you and thank you, Almighty God, amen.

#### The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

**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

#### Communion of the People

*Bread and juice will be passed to you in the pews. Please hold them and we will eat and drink together. Anyone can participate in this meal, for all are welcome at the table of Christ.*

### **Communion Prayer**

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world— because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

### **GOING IN GOD'S NAME**

#### **\*Closing Hymn #757**

Today We all Are Called to Be Disciples

1 Today we all are called to be  
disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free,  
make plowshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,  
make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first,  
our ease and comfort last.

2 God made the world and at its birth  
ordained our human race  
to live as stewards of the earth,  
responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud;  
we sow not peace but strife.  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud  
that threatens all of life.

3 Pray justice may come rolling down  
as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field and town  
to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore  
an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for  
a harmony of peace.

4 May we in service to our God  
act out the living word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod  
till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we  
give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be  
disciples of the Lord.

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### **Benediction**

#### **Postlude**

Immortal, Invisible

Traditional Welsh Melody

from John Robert's Canaidau y Cyssegr