

Worship for 09 May 2021
Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

One: Sing to our God a new song.

ALL: God has done marvelous things!

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

ALL: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

One: Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

ALL: Let the world and its people sing together for joy!

Hymn of Invitation – “In Christ There Is No East or West”

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find; his service is the golden cord close binding humankind.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we have not loved you or each other with our whole hearts. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us toward wholeness, that we may be filled with your joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture – Acts 10:44-48; John 15:9-17 (see reverse)

Reflection – “Leveling Up”

Prayers of the People & 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.

The Apostles' Creed (see reverse)

Hymn of Thanksgiving – “Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me”

Jesus, thy boundless love to me no thought can reach, no tongue declare; O knit my thankful heart to thee, and reign without a rival there! Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live; myself to thee entirely give.

O Love, how gracious is thy way! All fear before thy presence flies; care, anguish, sorrow melt away where'er thy healing beams arise. O Jesus, nothing may I see, nothing desire, or seek, but thee.

Announcements & Blessing

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

John 15:9-17

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.*

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

What keeps you from abiding in Christ and living into the joy this brings? How does being viewed as a friend (instead of a servant) change the way you see yourself and your work in this world?