



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH** FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 17, 2020



SERVING THIS MORNING:

Music Director: Dr. Greg Turner  
Worship Leader: Christopher Goebel  
Vocalist: Linda Jackson

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## Prelude

### 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!**

### PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Loving God,  
in whom we live and move and have our being,  
help us to choose life in you,  
that we may keep the commands of Jesus,  
follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit,  
and witness to the hope that is within us,  
sharing Christ's love in the world. **Amen.**

### \*OPENING HYMN:

*"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"*

#68

1. *Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace,  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise his name—I'm fixed upon it—name of God's redeeming love.*
2. *Here I raise to thee an altar, hither by thy help I've come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood.*
3. *O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee;  
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION:

Brother and sisters,  
God not only asks us to repent,  
but also assures us of forgiveness.  
Therefore, let us confess our sins  
to the one who is steadfast love.

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Loving God,  
we do not always keep your commandments;  
we fail to love you;  
our conscience is not clear.  
Wash us in the water of life  
that we may live again  
through the grace and mercy of Jesus,  
our resurrected Savior. Amen.

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**#377**

O Lord, have mercy, O Lord have mercy,  
O Lord have mercy, have mercy on us.  
O Christ have mercy, O Christ have mercy,  
O Christ have mercy, have mercy on us.

**\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:**

Sisters and brothers,  
God forgives, restores, and strengthens us  
through the risen Christ.  
Know that you are forgiven  
and be at peace.

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Let us offer and receive the peace of Christ as a sign of  
God's grace and assurance of forgiveness.

Leader:           The peace of Christ be with you.  
(We encourage you to share Christ's peace by texts and phone calls.)

**\*SUNG RESPONSE**

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.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to God who listens and gives heed to our prayers.

**We praise and we bless you, our true and loving God.**

We pray for all who search for you:  
may they find their way in you.

Bless us with lips that sing your praise  
and lives that tell the stories of all that you have done for us.

Open our eyes to find you among us  
as we share your love with others.

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who are oppressed by governments or institutions:  
for those whose voices are not heard or believed,  
those with no one on their side.

Bless us with a joy for justice  
and the strength to persevere as we work toward your coming realm.

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who hunger,  
and those who worry each day how they will care for their families.

Bless us all with meaningful work and fill us with good things,  
as we love and care for each other and find our sustenance in you.

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer the violence and scars of war,  
for all soldiers and their families,  
and all who live and serve in war-torn places.

Give them courage in the face of fear;  
in times of trouble, do not let their feet slip.

Bless us with your vision of peace,  
for you have made us one family by giving life and breath to all.

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those near to us who need your strength and healing...(prayer cards)

We remember before you all who have died,  
and pray for all who will die today,

that they may know your peace.

Bless us with the gift of faith,  
that we may know you and love you,  
and enjoy life eternal shared with you,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC:

*"You Say"*

*Artist; Lauren Daigle*

*Aileen Pollock, Vocalist*

*Beth Nuss, Accompanist*

## 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.

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Come Holy Spirit, our helper and advocate:  
Open our hearts and minds this day,  
entice us with your presence.  
Spark us with a word of life—  
a message that we may share with others  
as we seek to live Christ's love in the world.  
All this we ask in the name of God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us. **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 17:22-31

<sup>22</sup> Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' <sup>29</sup> "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. <sup>30</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

## SERMON:

*"From Silos to Cooperation:  
The Growing Importance of Inter-Faith Coalitions"*

Rev. Dr Jared Witt

**\*A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (1983):**

**In life and in death we belong to God.**

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the holy One of Israel,  
Whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by the word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal...**

**With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**THE RECEIVING OF TITHES, OFFERINGS AND PW BIRTHDAY OFFERING**

**DOXOLOGY:**

**#34**

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

## **\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

O loving God, we give you thanks  
that you have placed in the hearts of your faithful people  
the gift of generosity and the desire to keep your commands.  
Bless these gifts and use them to reveal to all tribes,  
nations, and peoples your love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **\*CLOSING HYMN:**

*"Be Still, My Soul"*

#451

1. *Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side!  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain; leave to your  
God to order and provide— in every change he  
faithful will remain. Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly  
friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*
2. *Be still, my soul: your God will undertake  
to guide the future as he has the past; your hope, your  
confidence let nothing shake—all now mysterious  
shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still  
know his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.*
3. *Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
when we shall be forever with the Lord, when disappointment,  
grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's  
purest joys restored. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are  
past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

## **\*BLESSING**

## **POSTLUDE**

## HOUSEHOLD PRAYERS

### MORNING

I give thanks for the gift of life and breath  
that is mine today in Christ.  
Make me eager to do good and to resist evil,  
and grant me the wisdom to recognize the difference.  
Fill me with your assurance in all I say and do  
that I may share the hope that is within me  
in gentleness and reverence of Christ. Amen.

### EVENING

O God,  
in whom I live and move and have my being,  
you hear me when I cry and listen to my prayer;  
you set my feet on steady ground,  
you never leave me alone.  
As I rest in you tonight, sanctify my heart in Christ,  
and fill me with your strength,  
that I may rise to love and serve you and greet another day. Amen.