

# Celebration of Worship

May 29, 2011

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m.

\* *If you are able, please stand.*

+++ *Arriving worshipers may be seated.*

WELCOME

*(Please sign and pass the friendship pad, found in the pew, to the person next to you.)*

SOLO

*At the River*

*Aaron Copland*

*Clarence Curry, bass*

Shall we gather by the river, where bright angel's feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God. Yes we'll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God. Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease, soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.

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\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*The Reverend Dr. David J. Smazik*

Let the peoples praise you, O God.

**Let all the peoples praise you.**

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.

**For you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.**

\*HYMN 263

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

St. Denio

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great Name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish—but naught changeth Thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory, Though rulest in light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we render, O help us to see  
Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)*

*The Reverend Cynthia J. Alloway*

**Almighty God, Jesus came to bring peace, giving not as the world gives, but in a way that stills our hearts and calms our fears. Yet we struggle to receive what he offers. Peace in our world, in our homes, in ourselves frequently eludes us. Sin fosters envy and strife, self-loathing and self-pity. Release us from these burdens. Cleanse us and open us to the peace of Christ, the peace that passes understanding. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

Behold, I create a new heaven and a new earth. The former things shall not be remembered, even for an instant! Be glad! Rejoice forever in what I create! Behold, I create a rejoicing and joyful people. I will rejoice and be joyful with my people.

**Praise be to God.**

*\*RESPONSE TO ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

*(Hymn 310, "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee")*

**Jesus, the very thought of Thee  
With sweetness fills my breast;  
But sweeter far Thy face to see,  
And in Thy presence rest.**

**Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,  
Nor can the mind recall  
A sweeter sound than Thy blest Name,  
O Savior of us all.**

**O hope of every contrite heart,  
O joy of all the meek,  
To those who fall, how kind Thou art!  
How good to those who seek!**

**But what to those who find? Ah, this  
Nor tongue nor pen can show;  
The love of Jesus, what it is,  
None but His loved ones know.**

**Jesus, our only joy be Thou,  
As Thou our prize wilt be;  
Jesus, be Thou our glory now,  
And through eternity.**

*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)*

*Jean Wotowicz*

**Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*FIRST SCRIPTURE READING*          *Psalm 66: 8-20*          (*Old Testament, page 500*)

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*ANTHEM*

*Psalm 91*

Craig Courtney

*The Summer Choir Nancy Shearer, flute*

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the Lord, "My refuge, my fortress, my God in whom I trust." He will deliver you from the fowler's snare, and under His wings you will find refuge. His faithfulness shall be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror by night or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness or ravages at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand; but you will not be harmed. If you make the Most High your dwelling even the Lord, who is my refuge, then no harm will befall you; no scourge will approach your tent. He will give His angels charge over you; on their hands they will lift you up, lest you strike your foot upon a stone.

*GOSPEL READING:*          *John 14:15-21*          (*New Testament, page 103*)

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*SERMON:*

*"Keeping Promises"*

*Dr. Smazik*

*\*HYMN 314*

*Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

Bridegroom

**Like the murmur of the dove's song,  
like the challenge of her flight,  
like the vigor of the wind's rush,  
like the new flame's eager might:  
come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**To the members of Christ's Body,  
to the branches of the Vine,  
to the Church in faith assembled,  
to her midst as gift and sign:  
come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**With the healing of division,  
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,  
with the power to love and witness,  
with the peace beyond compare:  
come, Holy Spirit, come.**

*OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD*

*OFFERTORY*

*Around the Throne*

Steve Jenkins

*The Summer Choir*

*Julie Ramseyer, soprano Nancy Shearer, flute*

Around the throne, a glorious band, the saints in countless numbers stand, of ev'ry tongue, redeemed to God, arrayed in garments washed in blood. Alleluia. Through tribulation great they came; they bore the cross, despised the shame; from all their labors now they rest in God's eternal glory blest. Alleluia. They see their Savior face to face, and sing the triumphs of this grace; each day and night they sing his praise, to him the loud thanksgiving raise, Alleluia. "Worthy the Lamb, for sinners slain, through endless years to live and reign; you have redeemed us by your blood, and made us kings and priests to God." Alleluia! Oh, may we tread the sacred road, that saints and holy martyrs trod; Wage to the end the glorious strife and win, like them, the crown of life. Alleluia.

*\*RESPONSE (from Hymn 542, Tallis' Canon)*

**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.**

*DEDICATION OF OFFERING*

*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.**

*\*HYMN 561*

*My Country, 'Tis of Thee*

America

**My country, 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing;  
Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrims' pride,  
From every mountainside  
Let freedom ring!**

**My native country, thee,  
Land of the noble free,  
Thy name I love;  
I love thy rocks and rills,  
Thy woods and templed hills;  
My heart with rapture thrills,  
Like that above.**

**Let music swell the breeze,  
And ring from all the trees  
Sweet freedom's song;  
Let mortal tongues awake;  
Let all that breathe partake;  
Let rocks their silence break,  
The sound prolong.**

**Our fathers' God to Thee,  
Author of liberty,  
To Thee we sing.  
Long may our land be bright,  
With freedom's holy light,  
Protect us by Thy might,  
Great God our King.**

*BENEDICTION*

*BENEDICTION ANTHEM*

*Christ Hath a Garden*

K. Lee Scott

*The Summer Choir*

Christ hath a garden walled around, a paradise of fruitful ground, chosen by love and fenced by grace from out the world's wide wilderness. Like trees of spice his servants stand, there planted by his mighty hand; by Eden's gracious streams that flow to feed their beauty where they grow. Awake O wind of heav'n and bear their sweetest perfume through the air: stir up O south the boughs that bloom, till the beloved Master come: that he may come and linger yet among the trees that he hath set; that he may evermore be seen to walk amid the springing green.

*The congregation is requested to remain seated during the concluding anthem.  
If you must leave, please do so respectfully.*

*Participating in the services today are the Reverends Dr. David J. Smazik  
and Cynthia J. Alloway, and Elder Jean Wotowicz  
The music is under the direction of James D. Hicks.*