

The Order of Service: The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

Prelude *This is My Father's World*

arr. Mark Hayes
Dr. Gukhui Han, Piano

Opening Acclamation *(people unmuted)*

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Celebrant Kindle in our hearts, O God, Christ's flame of love that never ceases, that it may burn in us, giving light to others. May we shine forever in your temple, set on fire with your eternal light, even your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. *(St. Columba)*

Hymn *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee*

Hymn to Joy

(Mute your device and sing loudly and joyfully)



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, bloom-ing mea-dow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach— us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

Collect for Purity *(people muted)*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day *(people muted)*

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Love is Love in Long Beach

A Reading *Acts 17:22-31 (people muted)*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

A Reading *1 Peter 3:13-22 (people muted)*

A reading from First Peter.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *Love Divine All Love's Excelling*

arr. Alfred V. Fedak
Becky Hasquet & Becca Bishop, soloists

Love divine all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n 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.

Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never, Nevermore 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 heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love and praise.

The Gospel *John 14:15-21 (people muted)*

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "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 forever. 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."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Anthem *The Rose (Some say love)*

Amanda McBroom
Becky Hasquet & Becca Bishop, soloists

Some say love, it is a river, that drowns the tender reed
Some say love, it is a razor, that leaves your soul to bleed
Some say love, it is a hunger, an endless aching need
I say love, it is a flower, and you, its only seed

It's the heart afraid of breaking, that never learns to dance
It's the dream afraid of waking, that never takes the chance
It's the one who won't be taken, who cannot seem to give
And the soul afraid of dying, that never learns to live

When the night has been too lonely and the road has been too long
And you think that love is only for the lucky and the strong
Just remember in the winter, far beneath the bitter snows
Lies the seed, that with the sun's love in the spring becomes the rose

The Sermon *(people muted)*

The Rev. Dean Farrar

Silence follows the sermon.

Affirmation of Faith *(people muted)*

**We believe in God
who is never confined to our imagining,
is never in bondage to our understanding
and never kept within our dwelling places.**

**Our God is mystery
of divine and human, bound together,
of power and vulnerability,
of crucifixion and resurrection.**

**Our God is the wonder
of truth and compassion,
of liberation and responsibility,
of eternal wisdom and amazing grace.**

**We celebrate this God who leaps free of all boundaries in love,
stretching out beyond any barricades
and in mercy bending deep
into fragile human hearts.**

(Source: *Celtic Daily Prayer*, Vol. 2 in the Celtic Communion service)

Anthem *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Greg Gilpin
Becky Hasquet & Becca Bishop, soloists

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Over and around us lies.

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Over and around us lies.

Heaven, to heaven with joy we raise
This our grateful song of praise.
Heaven, to heaven with joy we raise
This our grateful song of praise.

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
Sun and moon and stars of light.

Heaven, to heaven with joy we raise
This our grateful song of praise.
Heaven, to heaven with joy we raise
This our grateful song of praise, this our grateful song of praise.

The Prayers of the People

*(people muted; please hold down your space bar for the response: **Peace be with them.**)*

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Leader Risen Lord, you greeted all you met with a word of peace; give us your Spirit to pray
for peace for all people.

On this Long Beach Pride Weekend, we give thanks for the faithful and courageous leadership of
lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people who have called us to your way of love, which
respects the dignity of every human being and speaks your word of welcome to all people:

Peace be with them.

For those within our faith traditions who have named LGBTQ people unworthy, and for those who
have been harmed by words, policies, and acts of exclusion and hatred:

Peace be with them.

For those who stand as allies seeking to understand the nature of privilege, and accept the necessity to
listen, learn, and accompany those who know the pain of rejection, discrimination, and violence:

Peace be with them.

For those infected with the novel Corona Virus, and for the medical professionals caring for them:
Peace be with them.

For those who have lost their jobs or have closed their businesses, and for those working in service jobs, public safety, and healthcare under often unsafe conditions:
Peace be with them.

For Asians facing increased hostility and acts of violence due to the Corona-19 pandemic, and for the black and brown members of our community who are struggling to gain access to public benefits and healthcare, and are dying at disproportionately high rates:
Peace be with them.

For those suffering from anxiety and loneliness due to physical distancing:
Peace be with them.

For those who work at the centers of power and those who live on the margins:
Peace be with them.

For those overcome by war, violence, and degradation:
Peace be with them.

For those possessed by envy, rage, and hatred:
Peace be with them.

For those overwhelmed by stress, isolation, fear, illness, loss, and despair:
Peace be with them.

For those who desecrate the earth and those who cherish creation:
Peace be with them.

For those held down by sin and those lifted up by grace:
Peace be with them.

For those who have betrayed our trust and for those we have wronged:
Peace be with them.

For our friends and all who warm us with love:
Peace be with them.

For those who show God's love by caring for God's people and all creation:
Peace be with them.

For those who have died remembering especially Barbara Wegeman, Octaviano Salvatierra Cueto, and all those who have died recently:
Peace be with them.

For those whose joys and concerns we now raise up in prayer and thanksgiving.
(please hold down your space bar to unmute yourself and add your prayers and thanksgivings)

For those we have named aloud and those we hold in our hearts:
Peace be with them.

Celebrant Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer (*people unmuted*)

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing of Birthdays and Anniversaries

Blessing of the People

May the Creator bless you and keep you;
May the Beloved Compassion face you and have mercy upon you;
May eternal Spirit's countenance be turned to you and give you peace;
This day and always. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you. Alleluia! Alleluia!
People **And also with you. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Rogation Procession *For the Beauty of the Earth*

John Rutter
Sung by the St. Luke's Choir, May 6, 2018

Accept, O God, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care of community, which surrounds us on every side even in the midst of our staying safer at home. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you for those whose work makes our lives comfortable remembering especially essential workers in agriculture, construction, social work, grocery stores, financial institutions, cleaning services, public safety, and hospitals and clinics who continue to work despite risks to themselves and those they love. We thank you for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ who in his living, dying, and rising reminds us that you call us to the Way of Love so that in and through us all might rejoice in the abundant life that is your promise for all people. **Amen.**

Postlude *Majesty*

arr. Joel Raney
Dr. Gukhui Han, Piano