

May 22, 2022 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

Greeting

Opening Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 198 - "Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim; Let all adore and praise that sacred name." is the closing refrain from "Lift High the Cross." This hymn was introduced to the United States in 1970 though it was written early in the 20th Century.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Come to this place of prayer; God is calling us. Come, all who are burdened; there is healing here.

Congregation: We have come to hear the Word of God. We have brought with us all that weighs us down.

Liturgist: Let voices of praise greet the one who calls us. Be glad together and sing for joy.

Congregation: Our hearts respond with hope for a new day. Our voices join in thankful prayers and praise.

Liturgist: God reigns among us and fills the world with light. We are invited to make our home with the living God.

Congregation: May God's ways be known within and among us. May God guide all nations in ways of peace.

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 197 -Though blind, Fanny Crosby wrote over 8000 gospel hymns. "Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross" was a collaboration with William Doane.

Confession of Sin

Almighty God, we have wandered far from your love. We have neglected your Word in the torrent of words that we hear and read every day. Our hearts are troubled amid the conflicts and violence of our world. Sometimes we find it easier to withdraw from everything, to resist change, lest it require more of us. We know you are reaching out to heal us; help us to respond. We know we are surrounded by your love. Let us feel it deep within, that we may reflect that love to all we meet. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Gloria Patri (Instrumental)

Lesson from the Acts of the Apostles – Acts 16:9-15 - Paul has a vision of a man begging him to go to Macedonia. They go to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. Outside the city gates they engage with a group of women and the Lord opens the heart of Lydia, who was a worshiper of God, to respond to Paul's message. After her baptism, she invited them into her home.

Hymn of Praise (Recorded) - Today's Gospel talks about healing. Casting Crowns offers up an inspirational anthem called "Healer."

Children's Sermon

Lesson from the Revelation to John – Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5 - One of the seven angels carries John to a high mountain and shows him the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven. There is no temple in this new Jerusalem because God is the temple. There is no sun or moon to illuminate the Holy City because the Lord gives it light. The river of life flows through the center of the city and on each side stands the tree of life, which bears twelve crops of fruit.

Order of Confirmation: Affirmation of Baptism

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory - Today's offertory is a fantasy based on the "Celtic Alleluia."

Doxology

Gospel Lesson – John 5:1-9 - Jesus heals a man in Jerusalem who has been cursed with an infirmity for 38 years.

Sermon

Closing Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 616 - "I Want to Be Ready" is connected to the epistle lesson from Revelations, one of few spirituals not based in the Old Testament. It closes with "I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John."

Benediction

Postlude

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