

Service of Worship - April 27, 2014

"Bright Sunday or Holy Humour Sunday" *The custom of "Bright Sunday" is rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "Risus paschalis - the Easter laugh," they called it.*

For reflection:

In our gospel reading today (John 20:19-31), there is the potential for anti-Semitism in the statement that the disciples were hiding from "the Jews". Who were "the Jews" from whom the disciples were hiding? How might we counter the anti-Semitism that some find here?

an invitation to rise in body or spirit* **Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

L: We welcome Christ's Easter light shining within and amongst us!

P: Thanks be to God! **Call to Worship** L: Peace to you this day, as you come through open doors;

All: God's peace to you.

L: Peace to you who hide behind locked doors;

All: God's peace to you.

L: Peace to you who come with more doubt than faith.

All: God's peace to you.

L: Peace to you who seek the path to life;

All: We come, trusting God's goodness and grace. Opening Hymns -

***624** "I've got peace like a river"

186 "Now the green blade rises"

Opening Prayer (all) God of new life, as we continue to reflect on the happenings of Easter, renew our joy and trust in you; encourage our faith, so that although we do not see you, yet we are able to believe and rejoice in you. Amen.

Children's Hymn - 624 "Give to us laughter" vs. 1, 2

Children's Time & Lord's Prayer

Children's Hymn - 624 vs. 4 and "5" (**ha, ha, ha**)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession

Words of Affirmation

L: People of God, fearful and faithful, doubting and dutiful, the Holy Spirit of God breathes life, healing and forgiveness into us. Receive God's peace and wholeness.

All: In trust and joy we receive God's peace. Amen.

Sung Response: 808 refrain of "On Eagle's Wings"

And I will raise you up, on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

The Gospel reading tells of the first Easter, and of Thomas, "the Twin," also called the "Doubting Thomas." While his head has him questioning what the disciples tell him as too good to be true, his heart instantly responds when he meets Jesus.

Music for Meditation

Sermon Prayers of the People (a bidding prayer)

L: do not abandon them

Response: but show the path that leads to life.

The Offering (Message on the sign of Faith Temple Church, Sioux Falls, SD: "We welcome all denominations: \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100.") ***Offertory - 173 "Thine is the Glory" vs. 2**

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing;
for the Lord now liveth: death hath lost its sting.
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.

***Prayer of Dedication** (all) God, bless these gifts that they may be shared in the spirit of an Easter people, ever seeking ways to live out faith in acts of service. Amen. ***Closing Hymn - 185** (tune 625) "You tell me"

***Sending Forth**

L: When you find yourself lost and confused.

P: May we hear Christ calling our name.

L: As you venture on uncertain pathways,

P: May we recognize Christ with us on the journey.

L: In times of wondering and doubt,

P: May we feel Christ's patient reassurance.

L: And in all times and places know this:

P: Christ is Risen!

All: And so we go as witnesses to all that God has done and is doing!

Sung Easter Benediction - 958 "Halle, Halle,
Hallelujah"

Lake Publishing, c. 2013.

Sources: "SpiritFUSION" - Easter 2014, Wood

Commissioning from "Before the Amen", eds. Maren and Maria Tirabassi, The Pilgrim Press.

Announcements

North Derby-Keady Fundscript order is due today.

Sunday May 4th is baptismal Sunday at Keady. We will welcome into Christ's community of faith Stanley Mills (Tim and Carolyn Mills) and Mavis Klages (Tammy and Kevin Klages).

May 11th - Children's Talent Sunday at Kilsyth; Mothers' Day