WEBSTER GROVES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25, 2021
9:30 a.m.

OUR MISSION
We seek to live Christ’s love,
welcome all people and joyfully serve God.
Service for the Lord’s Day

As the music begins, let us use this time for quiet reflection and prayer, so that we, individually and as a great crowd of witnesses, may prepare ourselves to reaffirm our faith as the people of God.

~GATHERING FOR GOD’S WORD~

PRELUDE
“Breathe” arr. Mark Hayes
Worship Band
“This is the air I breathe. This is the air I breathe. Your holy presence living in me.
This is my daily bread. This is my daily bread. Your very word spoken to me.
And I’m desperate for You. And I’m lost without You. Oh Lord, I’m lost without You.”

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP Diane McCullough, Liturgist

The heavens declare the glory of God.

The firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.

The plants and trees show God’s presence.

Let us join with creation in praising God!

OPENING HYMN Darlene Zschech
“Shout to the Lord”

My Jesus, my savior
Lord, there is none like You
All of my days, I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love

My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Chorus:

Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing
Power and Majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever I’ll love You, forever I’ll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You
CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of life,
You created us in your image
to care for one another and for all creation.
Forgive us for turning away from you,
ignoring the needs of our neighbors
and the cries of the earth.
As the sun brings light and warmth to this earth,
make us signs of your grace,
through Christ, our light and life, we pray.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In the water of baptism,
God pours out mercy and blessing.
Know that you are forgiven
and be at peace,
as you share that blessing with others
and care for this good earth,
that all creation may declare God’s glory.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.
All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Oh, praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam
Thou silver moon with softer gleam
Oh, praise Him! Oh, praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along
Oh, praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rising moon in praise rejoice
Ye lights of evening find a voice
Oh, praise Him! Oh, praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
Oh, praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father praise the Son
And praise the Spirit three in one
Oh, praise Him! Oh, praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

~PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD~

SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION
Rev. Hannah Zyla

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Diane McCullough, Liturgist

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 23
A Psalm of David.
The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name’s sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Suddenly goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

SERMON Rev. Hannah Zyla

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

~RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD~

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION
MINUTE FOR MISSION

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY    "Holy is Your Name"     Marc Byrd
              Worship Band

Now I praise You, Lord of all creation
You ordain the sun to rise and fall
You scatter the stars across the heavens
And You come close enough to hear me call

Now I want to say
Holy is Your name
Let all creation proclaim
Holy is Your name

Your love is the shelter over my soul
And You fill me with the wonder of a child
You will heal the humble and the broken
Mercy flows like a river running wild

On the highest mountain
I will lift my heart to the sky
From the lowest valley
Hear my cry

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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.
Lord of Heaven and Earth
Lord of all creation
Lord of Heaven and Earth
Lord of all creation
Of water, Earth and sky
The heavens are your tabernacle
Glory to the Lord on high

God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy
The universe declares Your Majesty
You are holy, holy
Lord of Heaven and Earth
Lord of Heaven and Earth

Early in the morning
I will celebrate the light
When I stumble in the darkness
I will call Your name by night

Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and Earth
Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and Earth
Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and Earth

God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy
Precious Lord, reveal Your heart to me
Father, holy, holy
The universe declares Your Majesty
You are holy, holy, holy, holy
Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and Earth

CHARGE

Go and work for the healing and wholeness of all the earth.

Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

May the One who gives us wisdom, guide us in the way of peace.

Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE

“God of Wonders”
Worship Band

As you rest in the postlude, our final offering to God, you are invited to use this time to reflect on how you have met God here today, and how you will bring God’s love into the world that awaits.
Worship Notes
Some prayers and liturgical texts for worship are provided by:
Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1 © 2012
Westminster John Knox Press from the PCUSA Book of Common Worship © 2018

Those Who Serve Today
Ushers: Deb Grossman, Debbie Miali, Carolyn Rao, Betsy Wacker, Bob Weng, Judy Weng
Liturgist: Diane McCullough
Camera Operators: Allison Byrne, Josh Zumwinkel

Online Worship
In order to reach beyond the walls of WGPC and into the homes of those who are unable to worship with us in person, each of our worship services is live-streamed and video recorded for viewing on our website, wgpc.org, Facebook and YouTube pages. Children’s participation in the Scripture Conversation indicates implied parental consent to be recorded.

Ministry Staff
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April 25, 2021 Announcements

Adult Education Hour - Benefits of Bees
*Sunday, April 25th, 10:45am - Fellowship Hall or Zoom*

Join us to hear Dr. Ed Spevak explain the important relationship between the bees and other beneficial insects buzzing around our home gardens, and the plants that rely on them to thrive. He has dedicated the last 40 years of his career to the conservation of invertebrates and is currently the Curator of Invertebrates at the Saint Louis Zoo and the director of the Zoo’s WildCare Institute Center for Native Pollinator Conservation (CNPC). He also Co-Chairs the Imperiled Bombus Task Force of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign and is on the Steering Committees of the Honey Bee Health Coalition, Keystone Monarch Collaborative and Missourians for Monarchs Collaborative and the Science Advisory Council of Field to Market. Join us for this informative and fun talk!

See the Friday Flash for the Zoom link.

Adult Education Hour
*Sunday, May 2nd, 10:45am - Fellowship Hall or Zoom*

Hope for our future. Modeling an institutional approach to achieving diversity, equity and inclusion, "Voices Lifted - Two Centuries of Black Composers of Opera" – presents a selection of Black composers from Joseph de Boulogne to William Grant Still to Terence Blanchard. This presentation discusses the work and agency taken by these composers in the face of barriers of racist Jim Crow laws and prejudice. The presentation explores the musical forces that place these composers squarely at the heart of the development of an "American" sound in many genres of American music - folk, pop, jazz, and classical. And finally, learn how Opera Theatre of St. Louis has developed several exciting new programs to achieve real diversity, equity, and inclusion as an institution and serve as a model for positive results. Presenter, Diane McCullough, is an Elder at WGPC, a retired music teacher, and opera singer. She has been a cooperating teacher with Opera Theatre and has been an OTSL Guild docent since retirement.

See the Friday Flash for the Zoom link.

Registration for Worship Services Ending
*Sunday, May 2nd*

The Session is pleased to announce that beginning Sunday, May 2nd, we will no longer require those attending worship to register in advance! Please join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 when you are ready. We will still practice social distancing, wear masks, and refrain from singing for the foreseeable future. Thank you!
WGPC Youth Update

Confirmation Retreat:
Our eighth grade confirmands will be exploring their faith this weekend at their confirmation retreat at Mound Ridge Camp. Seven confirmands are headed for the beauty of God's creation near St. James, MO. Pastor Ed, Donna and Pat will join them as they discern their faith. They will prepare their faith statements, enjoy a bonfire or two, and learn the irreplaceable gift of Christian community. Please keep them in prayer this weekend. Also, mark your calendars to come to worship and welcome them into the WGPC faith community as members when they are confirmed on May 16th.

Agape Mission Trip:
The high school youth group and college freshmen will be taking a "Summer Mission Immersion" mission trip to Memphis, TN, June 6-11. The theme is Charity vs. Justice. We will explore the issues of racism, poverty and prejudice from a Christian faith perspective. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we will adventure to various missions throughout Memphis to learn about the variety of perspectives surrounding these topics. Highlights will include the Civil Rights Museum and no doubt some delicious Memphis BBQ! Registration for the trip will close on May 2nd. Check with Pat Cleeland (pdc@wgpc.org) or Pastor Ed (efz@wgpc.org) if you have any questions. The cost is $450.00 and scholarships are available.

Teachers, Aides and Subs Wanted
The Webster Groves Presbyterian ECC is currently looking for loving and energetic adults to fill open preschool teaching positions. These include teacher's aide and sub spots for weekday mornings. For more information, please contact Amanda Kingsbury at 314-962-9210x3110 or email ecc@wgpc.org.

Attention Graduates!
Are you or someone in your family graduating from high school or college this spring? If so, we want to know! Email Cherstin at chb@wgpc.org with your graduation info. High schoolers, we want to know where you're graduating from and what your plans are for next year. College students, we want to know where you're graduating from and what degree you will receive.

Birthday Blessings
Would you like to be part of making someone’s day special? Join our card writing team! Email Tracey at tar@wgpc.org for details.