



# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2020

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## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*God of Grace*  
Dr. Terry McRoberts

*Manz*

### CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Romans 8)*

*Rev. Courtney Bowen and Rev. John White*

Leader: What, then, shall we say in response to the sufferings of our lives?

**People:** *If God is for us, who can be against us?*

Leader: He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – will he not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?

**People:** *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?*

Leader: Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

**People:** *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

Leader: I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**ALL:** *Let us give thanks to the God who has claimed us! Let us worship our Risen Lord!*

### MUSIC

*The Last Rose of Summer*  
Eleanor Garrard, Soloist

*Miliken*

## TO PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Rev. Courtney Bowen and Rev. John White*

Leader: Gracious God, you show us the way – the risky way that you took in Jesus Christ. The way that challenges all that is evil and destructive. We confess that often we choose the easy way that allows evil to triumph, and denies people the opportunity for abundant life.

**People:** *Forgive us, Lord, when we lose direction and fail to follow your way.*  
*(silent reflection)*

Leader: Gracious God, you speak the word of truth which brings good news to the poor, freedom to those who are oppressed, and healing to those whose lives lack

wholeness. We confess that often our minds are swayed by the world's 'truth' which can be so contrary to the gospel.

**People:** *Forgive us, Lord, when our lives deny the truth of your words and your deeds. (silent reflection)*

**Leader:** Gracious God, you empty yourself of all self-serving power and share with us your selfless love. We confess that we like to further our own purposes, even if it contributes to the powerlessness of others.

**People:** *Forgive us, Lord, when our desire for power is stronger than our desire to make your life visible through us. Remind us that your grace becomes clearer when we follow your way. The sound of your voice is easier to hear when our lives speak your truth. The heartbeat of your love is clearer when our lives bear witness to your life. Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.*

## **SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE**

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

**Leader:** "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you might proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (I Peter 2:9,10)

**All:** *Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!*

## **THE WORD**

### **A VIRTUAL PASSING OF THE PEACE**

### **A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Rev. John White*

### **MUSIC**

*Jesus Loves Me*  
Dr. Terry McRoberts

*arr. by Bober*

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Psalm 31:1-5*

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

### **NEW TESTAMENT**

*John 13:36-14:3*

*Rev. John White*

**SERMON**

*“This Fragile Life”*

*Rev. John White*

**RESPONSE**

**MUSIC**

*Liebst du um Schoenheit*  
Eleanor Garrard, Soloist

*Clara Schumann*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from A Declaration of Faith)*

*Rev. John White*

***God keeps his promises and gives us hope. In life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God kept his promises. All that we can ever hope for was present in Christ. But the work of God in Christ is not over. God calls us to hope for more than we have yet seen. The hope God gives us is ultimate confidence that supports us when lesser hopes fail us. In Christ God gives hope for a new heaven and earth, certainty of victory over death, assurance of mercy and judgment beyond death. This hope gives us courage for the present struggle. All things will be renewed in Christ. In Christ God gave us a glimpse of the new creation he has already begun and will surely finish.***

**OFFERING**

*Rev. John White*

**OFFERTORY**

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*  
Dr. Terry McRoberts

*arr. by Phillips*

\*Doxology (Tune: 591)

OLD HUNDREDTH

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

\*Dedicatory Prayer

*Rev. Courtney Bowen*

**SENDING**

**CHARGE**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Postlude on TO GOD BE THE GLORY*  
Dr. Terry McRoberts

*DeCou*

