



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
June 7, 2020



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

June 7, 2020

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

Prelude *Be Still My Soul (dedicated to George Floyd)*

Welcome & Announcements

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Call to Worship

In worship,

***May we be as welcoming as Sarah and Abraham,
who were quick to serve the stranger.***

In faith,

May we proclaim that nothing is too big for God.

In moments of holy surprise,

May we laugh with deep abiding joy.

For God is in the holy surprise.

God is in the winding path.

And God is in our presence today.

Let us worship Holy God.

Hymn #14 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God we confess—we are loose ends.

You give us the gift of community,

and we weave walls of exclusion and isolation.

You give us the gift of a new day,

and we long for familiar patterns

instead of sewing seeds of equity and justice.

You give us the gift of holy surprises and unimaginable beauty,

and we shut off our hearts and we blindfold our eyes.

Forgive us for our frayed ends and self-centered hearts.

Unravel the sin in us and replace it with love.

Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Silent Confession

Declaration of God's Grace

Passing of the Peace

Take out your phone and text to a church member, friend or family member - "The Peace of Christ be with you."

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

Sermon Rev. Shirley Paxton

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn #51 *To Abraham and Sarah*

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Comment on Facebook if you have a joy or concern to be shared. You can also email or call the church with prayer concerns. Tomorrow we will send a list of prayer concerns over email to our community.

A Prayer in a Time of Anger, Unrest, and Injustice

by Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter, Director of Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries

Holy One, whose Spirit is poured out upon all flesh, whose children you empower to prophesy, whose youth see visions and whose elders dream dreams, we cry out to you with a loud "Hosanna!" Where else shall we go, O Savior? You alone have the words of eternal life.

You came that we might have life more abundantly, but that abundance eludes too many of us, O God. Our news cycles are filled with despair. Our hearts ache as we wade through a global pandemic, reaching grim milestone after

grim milestone. But even as we navigate a new threat, old ones still linger. Communities of color bear the uneven weight of a new disease, yet we see that racialized violence and the systemic injustice undergirding it have by no means given way to the demands of a pandemic. We speak some of the most recent names: Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Tony McDade. We add them to the litany that is already far too long a list. This great cloud has witnessed persistent injustice and our perseverance in the face of it. Yet, how can they rest when so many keep joining their ranks?

We are slow to confront our complicity and investment in white supremacy and dominance. We live in a world in which Indigenous, Black and Brown siblings are expected and compelled to offer forgiveness at a discount. When the cheeks are turned, they are met with another hand to the face — or knee to the throat. Forgiveness is too infrequently met with repentance. This, O God, we name as sin. It is our sin. Help us to reckon not only with our personal failings, but also with our institutional history and the ways the church has helped to create systems of inequity. By your Spirit, help us to corporately live into our creeds and confessions and provide sanctuary for all God's children.

We humble ourselves and cry out to you in the hope that you will hear us and heal us. Open our hearts, minds, and understanding to your movement in the margins, so that when your people speak, they are indeed heard, and when they tell the truth about your deeds of power, they are not dismissed. In this way, let the fires of uprising give way to the fires of your Spirit, where your people hear the Good News of your kin-dom, hear it with joy, and make haste to take part in it.

Your kin-dom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Jesus is still Lord. To the one and only God, our Divine Parent, Jesus, our Gracious Sibling, and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Communion

Please have bread and juice, or some other type of liquid, prepared so that we can partake of communion together.

Hymn Give Us Laughter Unexpected

Give Us Laughter Unexpected

A Hymn of Thanks for Laughter

Text: Stephen M. Fearing, 2019
Meter: 8.7.8.7. D

Tune: HYMN TO JOY
Music: Ludwig Van Beethoven, 1824

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Give us laugh-ter un-ex-pect-ed, mirth that mo-thers us to health;
2. Though our grief can be so heav-y, bur-dens break our brit-tle bones,
3. When we think cre-a-tion's o-ver, when we think there is no more,
4. Blessed are you who weep with sor-row; soon the laugh-ter comes to save.

5
bubb-ling up from deep with-in us, end-less source of wond-rous wealth.
there ex-ists a salve that soft-ens hurt a-mid the mourn-ful moans.
lead us to re-think our lo-gic, help our joy-ous song re-store.
God, our joy-ful source of mer-cy, rais-es you up from the grave.

9
May our tears flow o'er our cheek-bones, not of sor-row but of mirth;
Laugh-ter char-ges not a co-pay, needs no cre-dit to ob-tain.
There's a cheer-ful balm that saves us from the sor-row and the sting.
Nev-er cease to loose your chuck-les, laugh out loud and let it fly!

13
free-ly flow-ing sill-y gig-gles, ones that mend this bro-ken earth.
All may ga-ther at the fount-ain, for a mo-ment, heal the pain.
Laugh-ter is the gift with-in us, sprout-ing up from joy-ous spring!
Hold your-self in ho-ly hu-mor, share God's joy in strong sup-ply!

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Charge & Benediction

Postlude "Jewels" G. Root

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble
Preacher: Rev. Shirley Paxton
Liturgist: Rebecca Mattern
Director of Christian Education: Neil Myer
Organist: Tamar Mikeladze
Choir Director: Jadrian Tarver
Tech Guru: Heather Myer

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Daily Emails: During this time period we are sending daily emails, Monday-Thursday, through Mailchimp to help inspire, sustain, and connect people. To subscribe please email the church office or go here: <http://eepurl.com/dznQfn>