

Everybody's Church



First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

Sunday, May 5, 2024, 10:00 am, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Vision Statement

As Everybody's Church we commit ourselves to serving Christ by cultivating mission, inclusion and community.

Inclusion Statement

As Everybody's Church we strive to be a faithful, open and inclusive community. We welcome the full participation of all people of any ability, gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or any other life circumstance.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lou Nyiri

INTROIT

"Psalm 150"

Harper

Chancel Choir

The music this morning is offered as an act of worship, therefore, please refrain from applause.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Chloe Aho

One: God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life.

Many: **From the waters of death, you raise us with him and renew your gift of life within us.**

One: Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of life with you, through Christ our Lord.

Many: **We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song!**

All: **Let us worship God!**

†HYMN 327

"From All That Dwell Below the Skies"

Hymntune: LASST UNS
ERFREUEN

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Martha Piesko

After Time With the Younger Church, children 3 years old—5th grade will proceed to their classrooms.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Ted Thode

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

Confession acknowledges the reality of sin in our personal and corporate lives. This practice relieves us from the burden of sin and reminds us of the promise of God's forgiveness and grace sealed in our baptism.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or in spirit.

Please join in reading those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

†RESPONSE 581

“Glory Be to the Father”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word.

Many: **Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit**
so we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

FIRST TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 98

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

“The Majesty and Glory of Your Name”
Chancel Choir

Fettke

SECOND TESTAMENT LESSON

John 15:12-17

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“An Unreasonably, Reasonable Thing”

Rev. Lou Nyiri

*“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.” - John 13:35*

OFFERING INFORMATION

*Members and guests, please sign the Fellowship Pads
to let us know of your presence with us.*

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES AND RESOURCES

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Walk Together Children”
Gregory Ashe, soloist

Hogan

†**THE DOXOLOGY**

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

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Please follow along with the reading on page 551 of the Old Testament in your Pew Bible.

Please follow along with the reading on page 109 of the New Testament in your Pew Bible.

All that we have is a gift from God. In gratitude, we return a portion of those blessings to the work of God in the church.

You are invited to contribute your loose change to the offering plate. This loose change goes to the Deacons to help support their efforts to meet the immediate needs of food, clothing and shelter in our greater community. Those quarters (and dollars) really add up to help those in need!

Children: Why do we give thanks at this table?

People: **We give thanks for God's creation,
for making us in God's image.
We give thanks because God never gave up on us,
even though we were not faithful to God.
We give thanks because when it was time,
God sent the only Son, Jesus, to show God's love for us.**

Children: How do we praise God for all this?

Leader: With all the faithful of every time and place,
this song is sung to God's glory:

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, - ho - san - na in the high - est." The score includes bar lines, clefs, and various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamics.

Children: What do we remember at this table?

People: **We remember God's Son, Jesus:
He healed the sick and restored sight to the blind;
He welcomed strangers and ate with outcasts.
Dying on the cross, He saved us from our sins.
Risen from the dead, He gives us new life.**

Children: How are we able to remember?

People: **We are able to remember
because of the gift of the Holy Spirit,
God's first gift to those who believe,
who will complete God's work in the world.**

Children: Why do we eat bread at this table?

Leader: On the night before He died,
Jesus took bread, blessed it, and gave it to his friends.
He told them to eat it and remember him.
And ministering in Jesus' name, we do likewise.

Children: Why do we drink from the cup at this Table?

Leader: After the meal, Jesus took the cup, and gave it to them
as the promise that our sins are forgiven.
And ministering in Jesus' name, we do likewise.

Children: But this is just everyday bread and grape juice.

Leader: Let us pray that the everyday bread and juice
will become holy:

"Holy, Holy, Holy" Land of Rest, Words and Music:
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Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

People: **Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
All glory and honor are Yours,
Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

Leader: Since this meal brings us together with all Christians, let us pray for the needs of the world, the church, and all of God's children.

(The pastor offers prayers asking God to help all those in need.)

Leader: Now, together let us pray the family prayer that Jesus taught us.

All: **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.**

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

The elements will be served together in the pews; beginning with bread, followed by the cup. Please partake as you receive. As you pass the bread say, "The bread of heaven, broken for you." The response is "Thanks be to God." As you pass the cup say, "The cup of salvation, poured out for you." The response is, "Amen." ALL the bread is gluten-free.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

†HYMN 300 "We Are One in the Spirit"

†BENEDICTION

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name" Murray

Andrew Herbruck, Director of Music Ministries, is playing the service this morning.

Our liturgist this morning is Chloe Aho. Chloe is in 5th grade at Bloomfield Christian School in Bloomfield Hills where she enjoys learning the Bible, math, Latin, and playing with her friends. Chloe loves all animals (including snakes!) and wants to become a veterinarian when she graduates college.

The flowers today are in loving memory of their mother, Vivian Pulleo, from Marci and Dave Solomich, Michele, Mike and Kate Solomich, and Vivian's great grandchildren, Parker, Ainsley and Ellie.

Visitors, thank you for joining us today; please use this QR code to register your attendance:



Hymntune: THEY'LL KNOW
WE ARE
CHRISTIANS

Welcome in Christ's name to First Presbyterian Church! You are welcome here just as you are at whatever place in your spiritual journey that you find yourself. If you have any questions about who we are, what we believe, or what we do, please ask one of our elders or pastors. They will be pleased to visit with you. Please know that you are invited to join us for coffee and goodies following the service in Calvin Hall.

327 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

(Psalm 117)

Unison

1 From all that dwell be-low the skies let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -
 2 In ev - ery land be - gin the song; to ev - ery land the strains be -
 3 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal truth at - tends thy

Harmony *Unison*

rise: Let the Re - deem - er's
 long: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! In cheer - ful sound all
 word: Thy praise shall sound from

name be sung through ev - ery land, in ev - ery tongue.
 voic - es raise and fill the world with joy - ful praise.
 shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

Harmony

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Because Psalm 117 contains only two verses, Watts's paraphrase had only two stanzas. Most later hymnals have created or borrowed additional stanzas, like the one included here, to enlarge the hymn. Perhaps the best solution is found by adding Alleluias, as this tune invites.

THE LIFE OF THE NATIONS

Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score is written for a unison vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and the piano accompaniment with a bass clef. The lyrics are 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'.

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em)
Fm Cm Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) (Em)
D^b Fm

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
B^bm Fm B^bm Cm Fm B^bm/F Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.