

6th Sunday of Easter
May 14, 2023 Worship Bulletin

Gathering for God's Word

*Welcome & Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing the Bell

Preparing for God's Word

*Call to Worship

[based on Psalm 92: 1-2]

Leader: It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High,

People: To proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.

Leader: Let us worship our Lord, the God of all Glory.

*Hymn of Adoration

#634, "To God Be the Glory"

To God be the glory
Great things He has done
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the life-gate that all may go in

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
Let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
Let the people rejoice
O come to the Father
Through Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory
Great things He has done

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see

Text: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1987

Music: William Howard Doane, 1875

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Prayer of Confession

[time of silent personal confession]

All: Forgive us, O Lord, for everything that spoils the lives of our families at home and at church: for the moodiness and irritability that make us difficult to live with, for the insensitivity that makes us careless of other's feelings, for the selfishness that makes life harder for others.

Forgive us, O Lord, for everything that spoils our witness for you; for the poor examples we make of following you with what we say and do with our lives; for the difference there is sometimes between what we say we believe and what we actually do, for everything we do that makes it easier for people to criticize your church or cause another to sin.

When we think of ourselves and the meanness, ugliness and weakness of our lives, we thank you for Jesus Christ, our Savior. Grant unto us a true repentance for our sins. Allow us, at the foot of the cross to find our burdens taken away. Strengthen us by your Spirit so that in the days to come we may follow you more nearly. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hearing God's Word

Children's Message

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings, #188, "Jesus Loves Me."
After the Children's Message, the children may return to sit with their families.

Commissioning of the Women of the Church

Leader: In Galatians 3 it reminds us that we are baptized into Christ and are clothed with Christ.

Men: There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female for all of us are one in Christ Jesus.

Leader: We are called by God to be the Church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

Men: The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

Leader: We are here today on Mother's Day to recommission the women of Union to the ministry God has called each of them to as disciples of Christ. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering from God and a responsibility. The women here today are called to serve the Church, in their homes and with their families, in their paid and/or volunteer work in the community, and even thru supporting and engaging in mission throughout the world.

Men: They are called to share the gospel in word and deed, to nurture others in faith, to pray and praise God in all the tasks laid before them, to come alongside

those who struggle in faith or in life, and to reflect the light of Christ in all the dark places of the world.

Leader: We know that God has placed a unique call on each of these women. And we commission them here to God's service. Women of Union, Who is your Lord and Savior?

Women: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior

Leader: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

Women: I will, with God's help.

Leader: And do you welcome the responsibility of this service as a follower of Jesus Christ to serve those Christ has put in your path with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and empowered by the Holy Spirit?

Women: I do.

Leader: You may be seated and let us pray.

Commissioning Prayer

Hymn of Preparation

#701, "Lord Prepare Me" [additional verse below]

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You

Lord prepare me to be testimony
Sweet and simple, tried true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be living
Testimony for You

Text & Music: John Thompson & Randy Scruggs, 1982, arr. Nylea L. Butler-Moore
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Prayer of Illumination

New Testament Reading: Acts 17: 22-31

22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.

24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact

places where they should live. 27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being. 'As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring. '

29 "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone — an image made by man's design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

Sermon

"To Infinity & Beyond... Making the Unknown Known"

Responding to God's Word

Offering

Offertory

Offertory Music

"Follow You," Amy-Joy and Jeremiah Jost

*Response

#606, The Doxology, "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

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. 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.

*Hymn of Response

#726, "The Summons," vs. 1, 2, 5

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known?
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when You but call my name.
Let me turn and follow You and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in You and You in me.

Text: John L. Bell & Graham Maule, 1987

Music: Scottish melody, arr. John L. Bell, 1987

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*Benediction

*Benediction Response

#2163, "He Who Began a Good Work in You," Sing the Faith Hymnal

He who began a good work in you
He who began a good work in you
Will be faithful to complete it
Will be faithful to complete it
He who started the work
Will be faithful to complete it in you

Words & Music: Jon Mohr

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*Postlude

*Please Stand if Able