



Prayer before Worship:
We gather in the presence of
the One who abandons no one.
Open our hearts and minds this day.
Guide us into a loving relationship
with all your children. AMEN

April 28, 2024, 9:00AM

5th Sunday of Easter / Mental Health Awareness Sunday

*In the spirit of Christ,
to love, to nurture, and to serve
one another, our communities and the world.*

Welcome to worship this Sunday! Wherever you are, God is present with you.
Let us now move from getting where we are to being present where we are, as we worship God.

PRELUDE

Benj Pasek & Justin Paul

You Will Be Found
Mary Kathryn Rivera, soprano

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & OPENING REFLECTION

Jonas Hayes

* Please rise in body or spirit

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Richard Ickler

Leader: Come, let us worship God who is creating a new heaven and a new earth. Today is a new day, a fresh start, and a day of new beginnings.

People: **Come, let us worship God who creates peace out of chaos, calm out of anxiety, and hope out of despair. Even at difficult times, we trust God is with us.**

Leader: Come, let us praise God who chooses to be among us, dwelling among us living with mental health challenges and disorders.

People: **Come, let us praise God who says to every one of us, “no matter who we are or what medications we take or our diagnoses or where we are on life’s journey: I will be your God.”**

Leader: Come, let us give thanks to God who loves us so much that death, mourning, crying, and pain cannot stop God from loving us. This is our greatest hope: we are held in God’s love.

People: **Come, let us rejoice, for God, the Alpha and Omega, is making all things new!**

*** OPENING HYMN**

Hymnal No. 43, vs 1-3

**On Eagle’s Wings*

**1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord, “My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!”**

Refrain:
And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:
under his wings, your refuge,
his faithfulness your shield.
(Refrain)

3 You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come.
(Refrain)

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 2:5

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

REFLECTION

Jonas Hayes

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Richard Ickler

Creator God, You are full of grace and justice. You are present with us every moment of our lives. In our rush to compartmentalize and create control in our lives, we have sometimes ironically allowed seeds of chaos to be planted in our relationships with others. We have sought to put people and their illnesses, struggles, and complexities at bay while we justify ourselves as "normal" or "quirky." Yet in your righteousness, Lord, you have seen fit to be steadfastly patient and divinely compassionate with all of your Creation - including us.

We confess both our subconscious and willful othering that provides us false protection from our inner battles. You said that if we confess, you will draw us close and wrap us in your forgiveness that provides both truth and love. We come before you with humble hearts and contrite spirits asking for your pardon. Continue to grant us the invaluable gift of the ability to know one another and walk together in an intimacy that only you can manifest. Into your care, we commit our collective weakness, assured by your omniscient strength and love. AMEN

SILENT PRAYERS AND CONFESSIONS

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear the Good News: No valley is too despairing, broken, or dusty for God to enter in. No fear, no chaos, no hopelessness is beyond the reach of the One whose breath gives us life.

All: **Through Christ, God sees only our wholeness. Through Christ, forgiveness, love, and new life are always possible.**

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Make all things new.

All: **We are reclaimed and remade by the Spirit of Life. In our brokenness and in our wholeness we are God's beloved. Thanks be to God. AMEN**

Leader: Let us now greet one another with Christ's peace and compassion. Peace be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

*** SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE & COMPASSION**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

Hymnal No. 683, vs. 1-3

Lord of All Hopefulness

**1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

**2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
be there at our labors and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
be there at our homing and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 12:30-31

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'

COME AS A CHILD

Marion Park

CALL TO OFFERING

Jonas Hayes

OFFERTORY

arr. D. Manoiu

Impromptu in F minor by Schubert / What a Friend We Have in Jesus medley

*** DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

**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.**

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Jonas Hayes

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Janet Ishida

ANTHEM

Natalie Sleeth

Love One Another

REFLECTION

Jonas Hayes

LITANY OF RESPONSE

Leader: The One who created all that is, calls us by name and invites us into a life of abundant love.

All: We go out into the world as God’s beloved people, bringing Holy Love to all whom we meet.

Leader: Jesus taught us to love one another as fiercely and freely as God loves each of us with the power that binds us together as the Body of Christ.

All: We will embody Christ by shattering stigma and welcoming all, leaving no one outside.

Leader: The Spirit fills us with the Breath of Life and urges us to imagine anew how to be the Church in the world today.

All: We will breathe deeply and move beyond what has been and what is. We will follow the Spirit and bring hope and healing to all who live in despair and brokenness. We will be the Church!

PASTORAL PRAYER

Marion Park

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.

*** CLOSING HYMN**

Hymnal No. 833

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

1 O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

2 O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine’s blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.

4 O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life’s glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

*** CHARGE**

Marion Park

*** BENEDICTION**

Jonas Hayes

*** RESPONSE**

Stan DeWitt

Benediction

POSTLUDE

Harold Arlen & Johnny Mercer

Accentuate the Positive

CCLI #1637469 | CCS WORSHIPCast License # 9635

Today’s worship service liturgy comes from *Mental Health and Wellness: Worship Resources for All* (The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network).