

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Meditation before Worship

Eternal God, you have called us to be members of one body. Join us with those who in all times and places have praised your name, that, with one heart and mind, we may show the unity of your church and bring honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

“In Thee Is Gladness”

arr. Diane Bish

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “The Risen Christ”

Walter Greatorex, 1916

The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet
From garden tomb through darkened city street,
Unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear;
And speaks a word of peace to all who hear.

Call to Worship

Leader: God, whom we gather to worship, rejoices that we are here amid this family made up of God's children.

People: Before us is a cross, reminding us of God's perfect love for us.

Leader: Before us is a baptismal font, reminding us of God's forgiveness and God's ability to give new lives for old.

People: Before us is a Bible, reminding us of God's promises and God's commands and God's past actions for God's people.

Leader: Before us is a communion table, reminding us of God's own presence with us in fellowship and love.

People: We are called to unity. Come, let us worship God!

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God, you created us with mouths to speak. You made us able to say kind words, to talk about important ideas, to laugh together at shared jokes, and to tell stories of your love. We confess that we often misuse your gift. We are more quick to use angry, hurting words than kind ones. We are easily drawn to mean gossip, rumors, and even lies, and we easily forget to tell about the good that others do. We too often hear ourselves laugh at people instead of with them. We are truly surprised, embarrassed, and ashamed of some of the things that come out of our mouths. Forgive us. Work within us until our words are the words you would speak, for we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn**

“Glory to God”

Glory to God, glory to God, glo-ry in the high-est! Glory to God,
 glory to God, glo-ry to Christ Je - sus! Glory to God, glory to God,
 glo - ry to the Spir - it! To God be glo-ry for-ev - er!
 Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men!

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

1 John 1:1-2:2

Choir Anthem “Let the Whole Creation Cry” Roland Martin, 2005

Let the whole creation cry, “Glory to the Lord on high!”

Heaven and earth, awake and sing, “Praise him, our almighty King!”

Praise him, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;

Sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice.

Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem loud and bold,

And let children’s happy hearts in this worship take their parts.

From the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll:

“Holy, holy, holy One, Glory be to God alone!”

Second Scripture Reading

Psalm 133

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “A Call for Unity” Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We

believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Invitation to Offering**

***Response** “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks” (refrain) #240

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(We will be receiving communion by coming forward to one of the two stations on each side of the communion table. Please exit the pews to the center aisle and return to the pews from the outside aisles. An elder or deacon will be available to serve communion to those who wish to remain seated. Gluten-free bread can be found on the communion table.)

***Invitation to the Lord’s Table**

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen, indeed!

Leader: Let us celebrate this irrepressible life; let us open our hearts to the joy and wonder of infinite possibility, of unquenched hope, of eternal resurrection.

People: We celebrate, we raise our voices and our hearts in worship and thanksgiving to the God who lives.

Leader: To celebrate, I invite those who love the Lord to come to the table to feast with the resurrected Jesus.

***Hymn of Invitation** “Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!” #248

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us pray. Holy Mystery ... proclaim the glory of your name:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: It is Jesus, God incarnate ... mystery of our faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader: Holy Mystery, God the Spirit ... almighty God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

We thank you, O God, for your life, pulsing in creation, revealed in Jesus, renewed in resurrection, and available to us now. Thank you for touching us again with your life through bread and wine, for joining our lives with yours through Jesus, and for renewing resurrection in our hearts through your Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Sending of God's People

*Closing Hymn

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

#306

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response “We Are the Church”



I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!



All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!

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*Postlude

“Thine Is the Glory”

arr. Charles Callahan

Pastors: Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood
Steven A. Watters

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd
Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: David Parrott

Flowers: The flowers are given by Carole S. Ames for the Glory of God and in memory of her husband, Bill, and her mother, Virginia, whose birthdays were on April 9.

Our liturgist, David, grew up and went to school throughout the state of Iowa. He moved to London, Ohio in the summer of 2020 with his wife, Stephanie, after she graduated with her PhD in chemistry from Iowa State University. They have been married 3 years, and can often be found gardening, riding their tandem bicycle on the trails surrounding London, and love to spend time with their furry children (Minnie the 2 year old Staffordshire Terrier and Charlie, a 10 year old Mini Rex rabbit). If you happen to find yourself at the Madison Health hospital in London, you might see David, as he recently started working there as a phlebotomist and lab technologist.

*I know the Lord is always with me.
I will not be shaken, for He is right beside me.*

Psalm 16:8