

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
6th Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020-11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

GREETING AND PSALM OF PRAISE

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name give to him glorious praise. Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you. All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name.

This morning, in all the places of sanctuary we gather, we gather upon holy ground. Standing here in the physical sanctuary of Eastminster Presbyterian, in Dallas, I feel at home. It is my hope that whether distanced from this place or gathered when we are able to do so again, you also will find here a place that feels like home. A home because God has knit together a community of faith who believe Jesus to be Lord of our lives and are intentionally listening for the leading of the Spirit in this and every time.

I would be remiss if I did not say a heart-felt thank you from myself and this congregation to our children, youth and young adults last week for leading worship. Eastminster is a congregation that takes seriously her baptismal vows to help families raise up children in good and faithful ways. For all who had and have a hand in "training" our worship leaders last week, thank you!

We keep Bettye Clark and Alice Brooks in our prayers as each of them makes a move this week. Bettye will make Autumn Leaves here in Dallas her home and Alice will enjoy the autumn leaves of Maine as she moves closer to family.

With all the earth, let us sing praises to our Lord!

VOLUNTARY

The Power and the Glory
Melody Davis

Tom Birchwood

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 32 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Since our God is a God of justice, waiting to be gracious to us, yearning to have pity on us we can, in faith, make our confession to God and embrace the gift of grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed: we have not loved you with all our heart or served you with all our strength; we have been blind to the vision of a renewed world and deaf to your call to costly discipleship. In your

mercy, Lord, pardon and restore us, that together in the ministry of Christ we may serve you with joy all the days of our life. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Jesus said to the disciples, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." God has mercy on us, pardons us and sets us free. May God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Empower us by your Holy Spirit to hear your message through Scripture that we may show your love with gentle word and reverent deed to all your people. Amen.

EPISTLE READING (*Pew Bible*, page 137)

Acts 17:23-31

²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

ANTHEM

Rain Down
Sanctuary Choir

arr. John Carter

NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible*, page 109)

John 14: 15-21

¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

*HYMN 71 *Surely It is God Who Saves Me*

SERMON

Adopted, Not Orphaned

Sherry Holloman

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from 1 John

We believe in God the Father, who reveals his love to us in Christ. We believe in God the Son, who pours out God's Holy Spirit on us. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who teaches us God's truth. We believe in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We come this morning, bringing prayers for our country, our world, for leaders, that in this ever-changing world, they lead not from selfish motive or gain, but with the care that has been entrusted them over others. More now than ever, Lord, we need leaders that are willing to step out of the spotlight, yet lead with strong conviction of the world you have envisioned for us, to lead with hearts of goodness, with minds of wisdom.

Too often we are content to be followers. It is easier to let others make the hard decisions, forge the new paths, envision your future for us. Move us, by the power of your Spirit within our hearts, beyond following to faithful and compassionate leading, in your name and with your purpose. For your whole church, and this congregation, in particular, Lord, bring us together in united ministries that serve to share your one get message: you are love, and your love has and does and will always overcome all that tries to separate us from you and from one another.

Your message of life and hope and abundant and joyful living is the message so needed by our world today. Move us from complacency to action, reminding us at ever turn, that we do not create any ministry, any mission—we are called to faithfully follow the ministry and mission that our Lord has already set in place. Make us disciples, formed in your image, living out the life Christ modeled for us.

Remind us that our prayers are action, but keep us open to others ways and means of action that can bring healing and hope. Until that time, our hearts are full of prayers.

We pray now as our Lord prayed: **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.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Through our offerings and the actions of our lives may we share the truth of the gospel and may our witness point others to Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. May you give bring generous hearts this day.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments
Sanctuary Choir

Thomas Tillis

*RESPONSE 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We are grateful for your work in and through our lives and also way beyond us in the fabric of creation. We give these offerings back to you for your work through the church, even as we give the whole of who we are to you in the everyday moments of our lives. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD

* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BENEDICTION

Love one another as I have loved you.
As the tree is in the earth and the earth in the tree,
as the sea is in the fish and the fish in the sea,
as the bird is in the air and the air in the bird,
as word is in the breath and breath in the word,
as rhyme is in the music and music in rhyme,
as time is in the season and the season in time,
as grief is in the loving and loving in grief,
as belief is in the hope and hope in the belief,
as desire is in the will and the will in desire,
as fire is in the flame and the flame in the fire,
as you, Christ, are in God and God is in you,
so are you in us, and we in you.
So are you in us and
we in you.

Today, may we embrace that age-old, unending promise:
LIVE! MOVE! AND LET YOUR BEING
BE ALL THAT GOD HAS IMAGINED AND CREATED YOU TO BE!!!

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 729 *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

**Stand, if you wish*