

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
5th Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2020-11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

You are invited to silently pray as you prepare to offer thanksgiving to God.

**With every generation before us, with all who will come after us, we lift our voices in praise to you!
Amen.**

GREETING

Come all who are weary of wealth, of poverty, of power, of struggle, of division. Come all who are heavy-laden with too much, with too little, with anxiety, with fear, with anger. Come all who have hope for liberation, for peace, for freedom, for the kingdom. Hear these words: Come to me, and I will give you rest.

PSALM OF PRAISE (Psalm 45)

Within the beauty of God's supreme holiness, we gather to worship, to be still before God, and to rejoice in the glories of God's pure holiness. Within the wonder of God's unconditional love, we gather to praise, to be still before God, and to delight in the miracle of God's near presence. Within the majesty of God's gracious generosity, we gather to honor and revere the God who is beyond all earthly powers, and above all people and things. We come to be still before God and to celebrate God's holy majesty whose glories are beyond our comprehension and experiences; but, who welcomes us and invites us into an ageless fellowship of worship, praise and prayer.

VOLUNTARY

Triumph March

George F. Handel

Melody Davis, organ; brass and timpani, Sean Turner

*OPENING HYMN 366 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

CALL TO CONFESSION

It is healing to confess our wayward lives to the One who longs to forgive us! Together, we offer this prayer:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are sinners, Creator of Goodness, and so, we don't always make good choices. Forgive us, and rescue us from our foolish lives. Speak to our aching spirits with your healing hope. Yoke us with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, so we might lead gentle and gracious lives in the days to come. Hear our prayer. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Thanks be to God, in Jesus Christ, who chooses to forget our mistakes and forgive our sins.

RESPONSE 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

May the Word we hear today be written upon our hearts and lived out in our lives. Amen

EPISTLE READING (*Pew Bible*, page 157)

Romans 7: 15-25

⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is

good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

ANTHEM

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus Arr. Robert Shaw and Alice Parker
Sanctuary Choir

NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible*, page 11)

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” ²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The grass withers, the flowers fade, but this, the Word of our Lord, lasts forever. Thanks be to God.

*HYMN 188 *Jesus Loves Me*

SERMON

The “REST” of the Story

Sherry Holloman

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *The Coming Kingdom*

We have heard scripture read and proclaimed. Now comes the time when we say with our lips what we believe in our hearts to be the truth about our Triune God:

Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kingdom. We believe that God is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good. We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever. One day all tears will be wiped away; the lamb will lie down with the lion, and justice will roll down like a mighty stream. True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired, they are assured and guaranteed in Christ, and sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is our faith. This is our hope. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

A poet once wrote: “No man is an island.” Our lives intersect with a host of others. Lovingly, let us now pray for them. We pray, loving God, for the blessing of your Spirit on all kinds of people with their widely diverse needs. Your blessing, please, on the sick and those who nurse them, on workers and those who employ them, on the unemployed and those who stand by them. Your blessing, please, on the hungry and those who feed them, on refugees and those who welcome them, on drug addicts and those who treat them, and the sorrowing and those who comfort them. Your blessing, please. Pour your Holy Spirit on these folk for whom we have prayed, and also on the many who never catch our eye or make it into our prayers. Through Christ Jesus, we pray together saying...**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

May our gifts this morning be offerings of our minds for understanding; our hands, eyes, and voices for service, and our hearts for love.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Psalm 139
Sanctuary Choir

Allan Pote

*RESPONSE 647 *Give Thanks*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, may we never take the gifts of life for granted or fail to give you thanksgiving. May what we have offered today be used for your purpose and in your time. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD

* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BENEDICTION

In times of weakness and hour of need, yours is the strength by which we carry on,
the shoulder we rest our head upon.

When our load is heavy and too much to bear, yours are the arms stretched out
to help us the grace that we depend on.

In times of weakness and hour of need, your voice is heard:
Come... find rest.

May the love of God enfold us; the peace of Christ surround us;
and the comfort of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Amen

*CLOSING HYMN 729 *Lord, I Want to be a Christian*