

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
5th Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020-11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

GREETING AND THANKSGIVING FOR ALL WOMEN

The Lord's Day is always special, but today, is extra special. We celebrate also our graduating seniors, Ryan Blair and Jezzi Whitley, all our youth, our youth alumni, all women and our mothers.

Ryan and Jezzi, we know this is NOT how you expected to celebrate the end of a milestone in your lives, and for that, our hearts hurt with you. But, I also know that the two of you are already looking forward to a very good future that awaits you. You were placed into the hands of God when you were born, into the hands of Christ's church when baptized, and now you continue in God's hands by way of the Holy Spirit as you take the next steps. Eastminster will always have her doors and heart open for you and we will continue to lift you in prayer. You are beloved children of God and it has been my joy to be your pastor! I love you both! Sherry

Words of thank you to ALL who made worship wonderful this special Sunday: Fred and Chandra, and their tireless work to keep us all connected!

Thank to all who continue to work behind the scenes: caring for each other; caring for the building in our absence; preparing for our future and future re-entry and for all of the prayers lifted each day. The peace of Christ with you all!

For our children, youth and young adults for leading us this morning: Jake Davis, Kayla Dixon, Ronnie Dixon, Laura Bennett, Mason Gonzales, Hannah Hensley, AbbyGayle Flores, Jacob Wood, Vivienne Kelleher, Daniel Pappas, Lilly Pappas, Karli Gibbs, Sean Turner, Molly Holloman and Alex Pappas! **EASTMINSTER, GOD ENTRUSTED SOME AWESOME YOUNG PEOPLE TO OUR CARE!!!**

Thanks be to God, Bobbe has received her second negative COVID19 test. She will continue to be cautious and thanks everyone for the prayers and love!

Bettye is hoping to return to her apartment sometime this week. We keep her in close prayers as she will be returning with limited assistance.

Lewis had another infusion on Thursday and some positive feedback from the treatments. Infusions will continue with another CT scan in July! God is good.

We give thanksgiving for the life of Estelle Schiebel, and ask for comfort for her family.

We lift before God all whose lives are being affected by this virus, and this week, especially those who are suffering from anxiety and depression.

As we prepare our hearts to worship, may the gift of music calm our spirits and open our hearts to all God has in store for us today.

VOLUNTARY

Gnossienne No. 3
Jake Davis

Erik Satie

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear what God says about those who strive to walk in the way of discipleship: "The good flourish like the lush palm tree and are strong like the cedar." We are like trees planted near a steady source of water with green leaves and good fruit. Our fruit is love! Joy! Peace! Patience! Kindness! Generosity! Faithfulness! Gentleness! And self-control! God, as we come together on this day of worship may we flourish and bear good fruit.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 37 *Let All Things Now Living*

CALL TO CONFESSION

So many choices, and sometimes we make the wrong ones; so many paths to take, and there are times we go down the wrong ones; so much good we could do, and but sometimes all we do is talk. The God of help and hope can guide us through better decision making; walk down the right paths with us and turn our words in to action. As we confess and ask forgiveness for what we "don't do" in our walk of faith, we also say "thank you" for God's forgiving moment now and in every moment. We join our voices together in prayer saying:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we say that we are good listeners, but too often our ears are stopped up. We say that we live as your people, but too often, put ourselves ahead of the people we love. We say that we are people of faith, but then try to overwhelm

people with words, rather than acts of service. We say so much, God of compassion, that too many times we can't hear you calling us to faithful living. Have mercy on us and send us out to offer kindness and be generous with your love. Then, open us to all the chances we will have to follow and serve alongside our Lord. Amen

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Whisper it. Say it. Shout it. Sing it! Our God comes with justice, not judgment; with hope, not a heavy hand; with grace, not grudges. This is the good news for us. Thanks be to God for this Good News!

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

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving and gracious God, your presence is woven into the fabric of our days, as near to us as our own breath. Open us now to your word in Holy Scripture so that we might feel your great love for us and be transformed by it. May we hear it fresh and new and learn to live in the radical stories of your love. In the gracious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT READING (*The Message*)

Proverbs 22: 6

Hear these wise words Proverbs 22: 6 Point your kids in the right direction and when they are old they will not be lost.

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth
Kayla and Ronnie Dixon

Conrad Kocher

NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible*, page 191)

Galatians 5:22-23

From Galatians 5, we hear the gifts we receive: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

*HYMN 137 *He Came Down*

HOMILY

Wild Holy Spirit

Alex Pappas

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are children of God. We have been water-washed and Spirit-filled. We are dead to sin and alive in Christ. We are done with law and live under grace. Our hearts are set on righteousness. Our minds are fixed on life and peace. Suffering is nothing, compared to the glory to come. For we are heirs to the life Christ is bringing! We are children of God!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

On this day of celebrating your love, we lift to you those who have given us life, those who have loved us, those who have blessed us, and those who have taught us, our mothers and all women. May your blessing pour out upon the woman who gave us birth, and those beautiful, strong women of faith who have been mothers and mentors to us along our journey.

We praise you, God, for your gift of motherly love in all women, both gentle and fierce, both strong and humble, both kind and true. Where we have been so blessed, we give our grateful praise, for you have provided loving hands that have worked so hard in raising us, cared enough to correct us, blessed us in ways we cannot have fully known as children. We lift to you the prayer of every mother who has ever loved and lost, as we remember the mothers and women in our lives that we also have loved and lost.

We thank you for creating each woman with a unique combination of gifts and talents. Whether they birth a child or care for a child, we thank you for the hands calloused from washing, wiping, scrubbing, mixing, backing, stirring, hugging, patting, disciplining, holding, writing, erasing, painting, and pouring.

We pray you give each mom and all women strength. We ask you to be for them the daily bread and the living water that feeds and hydrates their tiredness. We pray that the same grace that flowed from God to Jesus to us in salvation will flow from mothers to their children and from all women to all children.

Lord, give each woman a worshipful reverence of you, the Creator and Sustainer of life. Help all mothers to rest in the knowledge that they are but stewards of us, your children. And, Lord, on this day in which we honor mothers, may we love and cherish the special women who have birthed us, who have nurtured us, and who have prayed for our well-being. May our hearts overflow with gratitude to you, who formed and knitted each of us in a mother's womb.

And although we cannot fully express our gratitude, help each one of us to be your blessing of love, a blessing straight from your heart. Hear these our prayers as 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

Hospitality – a warm welcome – is generosity. When we welcome each child of God into the life of this church, we extend God’s own generous hospitality. Our gifts help this graceful ministry to flourish and to grow and to give glory to God. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *O God in Whom All Life Begins* Sean Turner
Text by Carl P. Daw, Jr.; music, American Folk Melody; arr. Sean Turner

*RESPONSE 647 *Give Thanks*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Dear God, I am thankful for all you give, for food, for love, for a place to live. I thank you for all our families, too; and I want you to know, God, that I love you. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD’S WORD

* BENEDICTION

Go out into the world in peace, and in Christ’s name be – the humble who make others proud; the poor who have riches to share; the weak who help others be strong; the empty who overflow with loving kindness.

And the largess of the love of God,
and the treasure of the grace of Christ Jesus,
and the buoyant health of the Holy Spirit
will be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 623 *I’ve Got Peace Like a River*