First United Presbyterian Church

April 7, 2024

First Sunday in Easter

**GATHERING**

**CHIMES** Set your heart for worship, if you must whisper, let it be in prayer.

**PRELUDE**

**OPENING WORDS**

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And, also with you!**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One:What great joy we have!

**All: Our Lord is risen!**

One: Believe with your whole heart in the miracle of resurrection.

**All: We open our hearts to the good news of God’s faithfulness to us.**

One: Hallelujah!

**All: Hallelujah!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**\*OPENING HYMN** #119 The Strife is Over

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done; the victory of life is won;  
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their legions has dispersed.  
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped; he rises glorious from the dead.  
All glory to our risen Head. Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee, from death's dread sting thy servants free,  
that we may live and sing to thee. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Patient Lord, you wait for us to understand. You wait for us to remove the blinders of prejudice, fear, unbelief, confusion. Shake us up, Lord! Shake us up and cause us to look with new eyes on our Savior, who came that we might have life, abundantly serving all who are in need. Forgive our stubbornness and our complacency. Reach out to us so that we may reach out with healing love to others, for we pray this in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*RESPONSE TO PARDON** #579 Gloria Patri

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

**All: And also, with you!**

One: Please pass the peace to those around you!

**\*GATHERING SONG OF PRAISE** #322 Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me,  
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.

**PROCLAMATION**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** Acts 4:32-35

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**GOSPEL READING** John 20:19-31

**SERMON**  “God Uses Our Weakness” Rev. Greg Menssen

**RESPON****DING**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE**  #344 Christ of the Upward Way

Christ of the upward way, my Guide divine, Where Thou hast set Thy feet, may I place mine;  
And move and march wherever Thou hast trod, Keeping face forward up the hill of God.

Give me the heart to hear Thy voice and will, That without fault or fear I may fulfill  
Your purpose with a glad and holy zest, Like one who would not bring less than the best.

Christ of the upward way, my Guide divine, Where Thou hast set Thy feet, may I place mine;  
And when Your last call comes, serene and clear, Calm may my answer be, “Lord, I am here.”

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORDS’ PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY** #592

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SENDING**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** #383 My Faith Looks Up to Thee My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away; O let me from this day be wholly Thine.

May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;

as Thou hast died for me,  
O may my love to Thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.

While life’s dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be Thou my Guide;  
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow’s tears away, nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, when death’s cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll,  
blest Savior, then in love, fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**