

# CHRIST CHURCH PRESBYTERIAN

May 5, 2019



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## Christ Church Presbyterian 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2019

10:30 A.M.

*Called to love, serve and witness.*

Thought as we enter worship

*Love of Beauty is taste; the creation of Beauty is art.* — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Quiet meditation time (Please fill out a blue or pink card with any prayer requests and put it in the collection plate.) – Thanks

### PRELUDE

Welcome & Announcements

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

**I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.**

On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

**All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

**For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

**The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.** *(Psalm 138)*

### \*INVOCATION (Opening Prayer)

God of light and truth, you are beyond our grasp or conceiving. Before the brightness of your presence the angels veil their faces. With lowly reverence and adoring love we acclaim your glory and sing your praise, for you have shown us your truth and love in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

\*HYMN    BLUE    #477    *“Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”*

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion, let us confess our sin before God and one another. —based on Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16, NRSV

O God, we're scared of losing control of our lives.

**We want a God who takes care of us, but only when we need you.**

We want to be the rulers of our own lives rather than owe allegiance to you as our Master.

**O Lord, forgive us for confusing religious activity with following you.**

Please enter our lives anew and change us.

**In your mercy help us to follow you in all things so that we are grounded in grace, lavish in love and active citizens of your kingdom.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Because we trust in the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, we are given new life so that we can be children of God. The judge of the whole world died that we could be free.

**Thanks be to God who forgives us our sins and calls us to new life in him.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace, love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us greet one another in the name of the Lord.

**\* INSERT     “Speak of Lord”**

**THE PEOPLE OF GOD HEAR THE WORD****CHILDREN'S SERMON****HEARING GOD'S WORD: Acts 13:14-52**

Moving on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. After the reading from the law and the prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, "Brothers, if you have any message of exhortation for the people, speak it."

So Paul stood up, gestured with his hand and said, "Men of Israel, and you Gentiles who fear God, listen: The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay as foreigners in the country of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. For a

period of about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave his people their land as an inheritance. All this took about four hundred fifty years. After this he gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. After removing him, God raised up David their king. He testified about him: 'I have found David the son of Jesse to be a man after my heart, who will accomplish everything I want him to do.'

From the descendants of this man God brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, just as he promised. Before Jesus arrived, John had proclaimed a baptism for repentance to all the people of Israel. But while John was completing his mission, he said repeatedly, 'What do you think I am? I am not he. But look, one is coming after me. I am not worthy to untie the sandals on his feet!'

Brothers, descendants of Abraham's family, and those Gentiles among you who fear God, the message of this salvation has been sent to us. For the people who live in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him, and they fulfilled the sayings of the prophets that are read every Sabbath by condemning him. Though they found no basis for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. When they had accomplished everything that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and placed him in a tomb.

But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he appeared to those who had accompanied him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These are now his witnesses to the people. And we proclaim to you the good news about the promise to our ancestors, that this promise God has fulfilled to us, their children, by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second psalm, 'You are my Son; today I have fathered you.'

But regarding the fact that he has raised Jesus from the dead, never again to be in a state of decay, God has spoken in this way: 'I will give you the holy and trustworthy promises made to David.' Therefore he also says in another psalm, 'You will not permit your Holy One to experience decay.' For David, after he had served God's purpose in his own generation, died, was buried with his ancestors, and experienced decay, but the one whom God raised up did not experience decay.

Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through this one forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by this one everyone who believes is justified from everything from which the law of Moses could not justify you.

Watch out, then, that what is spoken about by the prophets does not happen to you: 'Look, you scoffers; be amazed and perish! For I am doing a work in your days, a work you would never believe, even if someone tells you.'"

As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people were urging them to speak about these things on the next Sabbath. When the meeting of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who were speaking with them and were persuading them to continue in the grace of God.

On the next Sabbath almost the whole city assembled together to hear the word of the Lord

But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and they began to contradict what Paul was saying by reviling him.

Both Paul and Barnabas replied courageously, "It was necessary to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we are turning to the Gentiles. For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have appointed you to be a light for the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

When the Gentiles heard this, they began to rejoice and praise the word of the Lord, and all who had been appointed for eternal life believed. So the word of the Lord was spreading through the entire region.

But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high social standing and the prominent men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and threw them out of their region. So after they shook the dust off their feet in protest against them, they went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

**MESSAGE**      *"Speaking the Good News"*

#### THE PEOPLE OF GOD RESPOND

#### THE OFFERING

**\*LIFTING PRAISE TO GOD – HYMN #593**    *The Doxology*

**\*Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***O God, we give you all we are and have as our response to your great love shown us in Jesus Christ. Please take this offering as a token of our willingness to serve you with love – each and every day. This we ask in Jesus' name, Amen.***

#### COMMUNION:

#### Words of Invitation

**HYMN**      **INSERT**      *"Bread of the World In Mercy Broken"*

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you,

**Our God is with us.**

Lift up your hearts in praise to the Lord.

**We will praise our Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise to the only wise God, our Savior.**

It is our delight, O God, to give you thanks for revealing yourself in the person of Jesus Christ. You humbled yourself, becoming fully human and experiencing our life. You were born in humble surroundings, exiled to Egypt, raised in obscurity and derided because your family home was an obscure village.

**It was through your humility that you destroy the proud. Because of your humanity, you know poverty. You came to free the oppressed from the oppressor. It is right to thank you.**

*In your birth you brought light to our darkness. In your life, you brought truth to our self-righteousness, mercy on our pride and joy at our repentance. You said, 'Let there be light', and the light came, to shine on in our darkness so that we could see ourselves and you for who we really are. You have created us to hear your word, to do your will, and to be filled in your love.*

**It is right to thank you. You lived here amongst us, showing us how to truly live, fully love and please God. You loved those who hated you even as you called them to repent and turn away from the emptiness of a religion without you.**

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed took bread, and after he had given thanks he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, every time you drink it, in remembrance of me." For every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**O Lord Jesus, we give thanks for your sacrifice for us. We dedicate ourselves to you, remembering your love and grace to others as we proclaim the salvation you brought us through your death.**

*In order for us to become children of God, sin and death needed to be destroyed. In your love, you became sin for us. In your mercy, you took on the consequences of our selfishness. In your grace, we are forgiven for our rebellion, accepted in our repentance and recreated because of our trust in you.*

**O Lord, because the cross on which you died, we are witnesses to your love. We declare your life and death for the forgiveness of sins as we celebrate your victory over the forces of evil in the world and in ourselves. May we be like Jesus, showing love and grace to all the world that they too may know your love.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

We give you praise and thanks, O Lord that you have called us to be your children. We are grateful for your love that led you to die for us and offer ourselves as your servants to be conduits of your love and grace in the world. With joy we thank you for the ways our congregation has shown your love this week. We praise you for your grace, honor you for your love and rejoice in your mercy. With deepest gratitude we proclaim you God.

[Time for Silent Congregational Prayer]

O God of compassion, we ask that our hearts be moved to show compassion for others. We especially pray for those who have suffered the loss of loved ones, home, food and shelter. We pray for all those who are prisoners, those who suffer addictions, and those who suffer daily. We remember before you the sick and dying, those who are lonely, those who are victims of war, terror, and injustice. We ask for mercy for those who suffer abuse especially those who are enslaved and grace for those who oppress others. We recall all those who have worshipped with us in the past and are unable to do so today.

[Time for Silent Congregational Prayer]

O Lord of the nations, we pray for all those who exercise authority over others. May they remember that their power is granted them to care for their people. May they pursue peace and justice as they seek first your kingdom and your righteousness. Help us all remember we need your love and grace. Grant us the courage to model your mercy to those around us.

[Time for Silent Congregational Prayer]

O Lord Jesus, you are the head of the church, the beginning and the end of all things. Grant to the church universal your mercy as we struggle to follow you. Look we pray with mercy upon the ministry of this congregation which you have called together with grace and kindness. Increase our courage, strengthen our faith, and inspire our witness to all people, even to the ends of the earth.

[Time for Silent Congregational Prayer]

Author of grace and God of love, send your Holy Spirit's blessing to us. Keep our hearts and thoughts in Jesus Christ, your Son, our only Savior, for you, Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit are worthy of our praise and adoration as we sing together the hymn "Thou Are Worthy":

***Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy, O Lord,  
To receive glory, glory and honor, Glory and honor and pow'r.  
For Thou has created, hast all things created, Thou hast created all things,  
And for Thy pleasure they are created: Thou art worthy, O Lord!***

**Serving of the Elements:**

*Today we will be serving communion by passing trays of bread and the fruit of the vine. Please take a piece of bread or a cup, pass it on to the next person saying, "The body of Christ broken for you" or "The blood of Christ shed for you." Please hold each element until all are served.*

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**O God, we give you thanks for your great love. As we celebrate the Easter season and your power to give new life, may our lives show that we are your children. May our community see our love for you and give you glory. This we ask because we want to serve you out of our love for you. Amen.**

**SENDING OUT IN SERVICE**

**\*HYMN      INSERT      "Power of the Cross"**

**\*CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

**How unsearchable are his judgments and how fathomless his ways!**

For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?

**Or who has first given to God, that God needs to repay him?**

For from him and through him and to him are all things.

**To him be glory forever! Amen.**

**\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**INSERT      "RHYS"      (Verse 2 Only)**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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**\*Please rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.**

**Please join us for coffee and refreshments in Fellowship Hall after the service.**

**Church office hours: 8 am to Noon Monday through Thursday.  
For emergencies call The Rev. Tim Dyck 319-321-4154**