



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday of Easter
2 May 2021 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Ministry Moment

Blanket Sunday

Carolyn Beatty

Voluntary

Wade in the Water

African-American Spiritual

*Ringing of the Bell

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

*Call to Worship

Avery Pound

Leader: Has no one told you that truth is written on the scrolls of your hearts and that the Beloved dwells within you.

People: **Christ is the vine and we are the branches.**

Leader: Aspire to live as children of God, to honor all relationships and to acknowledge the sacredness of every path.

People: **Apart from Christ we can do nothing.**

Leader: Let us worship the One who is our vision and the Lord of our heart.

*Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou are;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breath thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Prayer of Confession

Holy and Loving God, come into the secret places of our hearts and be our guest.
Help us to understand and embrace the fears that bind us, that we may grow in
courage, and challenge injustice wherever it prevails. For as we withdraw our

projections upon others, balance and harmony adorn us. As our hearts are awakened to your presence within us, we are connected to your life-giving Spirit. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

***Declaration of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
People: **in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***Response of Praise** Gloria Patri

Children's Sermon

Rev. Christian K. Choi

Response

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

*Children pre-K through grade 5 depart with Mrs. Sherrick for Sunday School.
Parents are invited to meet their children in Parish Hall after worship.*

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 22:25-31

*25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear God.
26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, those who seek God shall praise the Lord.
May your hearts live forever!
27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before God.
28 For dominion belongs to the Lord and God rules over the nations.
29 To God, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down,
before God shall all bow who go down to the dust, and I shall live for God.
30 Posterity will serve God, future generations will be told about the Lord,
31 and proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that God has done it.*

Music

All Good Gifts

Stephen Schwartz

We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.
God sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine and soft refreshing rain.
We thank thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
the seed time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer for all thy love imparts,
but that which thou desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.
All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above.
So thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love.

Second Scripture Reading John 15:1-5

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 2 God removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit God prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Staying Connected

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: "Abide in me as I abide in you..." John 15:4a

Solo Moon River

Henry Mancini

Moon River, wider than a mile: I'm crossing you in style
some day. Old dream maker, you heart breaker,
wherever you're goin', I'm goin' your way;
Two drifters, off to see the world, there's such a lot
of world to see. We're after the same rainbow's
end waitin' 'round the bend, my Huckleberry friend,
Moon R0iver and me.

***Affirmation of Faith**

1 John 4:16b, 18-21

**God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,
and God abides in them...There is no fear in love,
but perfect love casts out fear;
for fear has to do with punishment,
and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.
We love because God first loved us.
Those who say, 'I love God, and hate their brothers or sisters,
are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen,
cannot love God whom they have not seen.
The commandment we have from Christ is this:
those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. Amen.**

The Church at Prayer

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Soloist: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

The Lord's Prayer

Introduction to the Offering

***Offertory Response** Doxology

***Prayer of Dedication** Through our offerings, O God,
give your loving Spirit to a world in need of comfort.
Make our many gifts one offering for the world;
in the name of Jesus. Amen.

***Hymn 375** Shall We Gather at the River

Hanson Place

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. *Refrain.*

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. *Refrain*

Soon we'll reach the shining river; soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. *Refrain*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** Water Music: Allegro Maestoso

George Frederick Handel

() The congregation is invited to stand.*

Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff
Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
Karen Sherrick, Director for Children's Ministry
Avery Pound, Liturgist and Youth Assistant in Sunday School
Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts
Kelly Robertson, Soprano Jay Kennerly, Tenor
Lyle VanDeventer, Bass
Elsie and Bob Fox, Videographers
Krista Steller, Greeter
Gregg Humphrey, Richard Leary, Mike Sundquist, Ushers
Mary Ray and Marilyn Rigney, Safety Team