

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Psalms 4; Acts 3:12-19; I John 3:1-7

(Congregants are encouraged to read and reflect upon these passages as they prepare for worship.)

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE PASSING OF PEACE

THE GATHERING HYMN 248 (Verse 1) *Hymn to Joy*

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days! Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: All creation is amazed. In the desert all surrounding, See, a spreading tree has grown. Healing leaves of grace abounding Bring a taste of love unknown.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: Be silent and know that I am God!

Congregants: I will be honored by every nation.

Leader: I will be honored throughout the world.

Congregants: The Lord Almighty is here among us; the God of Israel is our fortress.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

O God of the still, small voice, quiet our inner spirit.

Help us to focus upon You, and You alone, and to hear Your voice within.

There are many other voices demanding our attention, but we cannot attend to them with You.

"Be still and know that I am God",

You say to us as You said to Elijah.

May Your voice speak through us.

In weakness, be our strength. In poverty, be our wealth.

In depression, be our joy. In apathy, be our love.

We cannot sing Love's song, O Lord,

unless it is Your voice singing in us.

Take this heart, and with this mouth

make Your praise and thanksgiving

a reality here and now.

We pray because of, and in the name of,

our Messiah, Jesus. Amen.

* HYMN 236 *The Strife Is O'er*

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of grace, when Your Word was rarely heard,

You spoke to Cornelius and Peter.

We confess that often so many voices

clamor for our attention

that Your Word is again hard to hear.

Forgive us if You have called us

to be prophetic witnesses

or to use our gifts to serve You,

and we have not heard

or have been unwilling to respond.

We confess that we do not expect to meet You

on the familiar roads we travel,

and so we fail to discern Your presence

or Your call on our lives.

Holy Spirit, You empower us

to recognize and respond to the invitation

of Jesus to follow him,

even when that means traveling

on unknown and unfamiliar paths.

Merciful God, take from us all that hinders

our hearing Your voice,

and fill us anew with the Holy Spirit

so that we may joyfully respond

to Jesus' call on our lives.

Hear these our silent prayers.

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Minister)

The good news is that even if we first

do not hear the divine word addressed

to us, God calls again and again. When

our words and actions separate us from God,

the Apostle Paul assures us that Jesus

was prepared to pay the price to restore us to God.

Paul writes: "You were bought with a price,

therefore glorify God..." (I Corinthians 6:20).

Thanks be to God!

* RESPONSE Hymn 232 (Verse 3) *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! our salvation have

procured. Alleluia! Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! where

the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING GOD'S WORD I Kings 19:11-13

¹¹ He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'

THE PSALTER Psalm 46:7-11

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah* ⁸

Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. ¹⁰

'Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.'¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of

Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

ANTHEM *Forth He Came at Easter* arr. David Williams

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,

Wheat that is dark earth many days has lain:

Love lives again, that with the dead has been:

Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love whom men had slain,

Thinking that never he would wake again,

Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:

Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain.

He that for three days in the grave had lain:

Quick from the dead the risen Lord is seen:

Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Skyler Hayes

CHILDREN LEAVE FOR JP'S

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Acts 10:1-33

¹In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the

Italian Cohort, as it was called. ²He was a devout man who feared God

with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and

prayed constantly to God. ³One afternoon at about three o'clock he had

a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying

to him, 'Cornelius.'⁴He stared at him in terror and said, 'What is it,

Lord?' He answered, 'Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a

memorial before God. ⁵Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon

who is called Peter; ⁶he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house

is by the seaside.'⁷When the angel who spoke to him had left, he

called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those

who served him, ⁸and after telling them everything, he sent them to

Joppa. ⁹ About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. ¹²In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³Then he heard a voice saying, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ¹⁴But Peter said, ‘By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean.’ ¹⁵The voice said to him again, a second time, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁶This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven. ¹⁷Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon’s house and were standing by the gate. ¹⁸They called out to ask whether Simon, who was called Peter, was staying there. ¹⁹While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, ‘Look, three men are searching for you. ²⁰Now get up, go down, and go with them without hesitation; for I have sent them.’ ²¹So Peter went down to the men and said, ‘I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your coming?’ ²²They answered, ‘Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.’ ²³So Peter* invited them in and gave them lodging. The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the believers from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵On Peter’s arrival Cornelius met him, and falling at his feet, worshipped him. ²⁶But Peter made him get up, saying, ‘Stand up; I am only a mortal.’ ²⁷And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled; ²⁸and he said to them, ‘You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. ²⁹So when I was sent for, I came without objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?’ ³⁰ Cornelius replied, ‘Four days ago at this very hour, at three o’clock, I was praying in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me. ³¹He said, “Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. ³²Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.” ³³Therefore I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say.’

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON Pam Claterbaugh
 "Listening Is More Than Hearing"

*HYMN 245 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!*

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

*THE DOXOLOGY

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN 697 *Take My Life*

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

*Indicates the People Standing

If standing is difficult, please remain seated. Larger print bulletins are available.

Ushers
 Jyke Jones, Tim Paquette, Greg Theimer, Ray Williams

Acolytes
 Amia Gilliard, Nicole Paquette

WE WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP! You are special, because God brought you here today. Together we celebrate and rejoice in God’s blessings in our lives!

THE MINISTER IS VISITING FAMILY IN TEXAS, so we are pleased to welcome Pam Claterbaugh, an elder at Green Ridge and a participant in the Presbytery’s Commissioned Lay Pastor program, which trains elders to serve in ministry in smaller congregations. We thank Pam for filling our pulpit this morning!

Life is like the surface of the ocean. There are always waves on the water. Sometimes they are big, sometimes they are small. Sometimes they are almost imperceptible, sometimes they are overwhelming. The water’s waves are churned up by winds, which come and go and vary in direction and intensity, just as do the winds of stress and change in our lives.

You can’t stop the waves. But you can learn how to surf!

Jon Kabat-Zinn, Coming To Our Senses

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 Welcome to Christ’s Service of Worship for the Lord’s Day

*April Fifteenth the Year of Our Lord
 Two Thousand Eighteen*

Third Sunday of Easter

