

5th Sunday of Easter

April 24, 2016

Scriptural Meditation

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21:3-4

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of Our Church Bell

Welcome and Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ

Prelude *Canon on 'Seek Ye First'* by J. Pachelbel & K. Lafferty

Call to Worship

One: In our busy "24/7" lives, where is God when we are stressed out, overwhelmed, and discouraged? How many of us have wondered that? We sometimes think of God as a distant deity, sitting on a satin cushion in a dreamy, faraway heaven, but the Bible tells us otherwise.

All: God is here. God is near.

One: Like a good Mom, God will wipe away our every tear,
And hold the tissue as we blow our noses.

All: God is here. God is near.

One: Like a good Dad, God gets up when we call out at night
and lets us drink from the spring of the water of life.

All: God is here. God is near.

Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Invocation

*** Gathering Song** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* # 267

*Prayer of Reconciliation

Let us stand and express ourselves to God.

All: Patient God, sometimes we are just too busy for our own good. We pledge ourselves to hectic schedules, demands on time, energy, and resources that erode all too quickly. We seem to be rushing through life. Slow us down a bit, Lord. Remind us again that we are responsible for the care of this world, for reaching out and offering your healing love. Remind us again of Jesus' words to his disciples when he told them that they should love one another as he loved them. May we take time to bear witness to that love in all that we do. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

***A Time for Contemplation** (a private time for you and God)

*Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Wherever you are, Christ is with you.
You are beloved of God and
God's care will always surround you.
Be at peace and rejoice!
Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***Gloria Patri** # 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

Tune: Gloria Patri, Henry W. Greatorex, 1851, Public Domain.

God's Word for Little Ears

Song of Preparation

We Are One in the Spirit/They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love # 300
Scott Harrison and Alex Mitchell, Guitars

~Hearing God's Word~

Prayer for Understanding God's Word

All: Loving God, we are often upset by people who are not like us—those who think differently, those who act differently, those who speak differently. As we listen to your word pour your love over us and transform us, that we may embrace all people as your own. Amen.

Gospel Lesson John 13:31-35 page 108

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148 (A Version for Today)

One: Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens,
and in the high places;
all you great cloud of witnesses,
praise the LORD.

**All: Sun and moon, and star strewn cosmos;
edges of the universe, and echoes of creation,
praise the LORD!**

One: Praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded and they were created;

**All: who set them in place for ever and ever;
who gave them order which will never fade away.**

One: Praise the LORD, from the earth,
all sea-creatures and ocean depths;

All: fire and hail, snow and smoke;

One: stormy wind, working the word of the LORD;
**All: mountains, and hills;
fruit trees and cedars, all of you;**
One: wild animals, cattle, reptiles and birds on the wing;
**All: kings of the earth, and all peoples,
leaders, and all judges of the earth;**
One: young men — and young women too;
All: old, and young
One: Let them praise the name of the LORD
All: – because it is raised up above everything –
One: whose majesty is over the earth and heavens;
who has raised up a horn,
All: to the glory of all receiving the steadfast love of the LORD;
One: the people of Israel, a people close to the LORD.
All: Praise the LORD!

For use in worship, with acknowledgement. © Jeff Shrowder 2000, 2013.

Anthem *I Give You a New Commandment* by Peter Aston (1938-2013)
I give you a new commandment: love one another, as I have loved you,
so you are to love one another. If there is this love among you,
then all will know that you are my disciples. [Text: John 13:34-35]

New Testament Epistle The Revelation of John 21:1-6 page 259
One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Lesson The Acts of the Apostles 11:1-18 page 130
One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Message *Old Habits Die Hard* Pastor Kim Nelson

~Responding to God's Word~

***Affirmation of Faith**

Let us stand and affirm our faith.

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

[The Apostles Creed]

Invitation to Become a Joyful Giver

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad

Please take a moment to sign your name and contact information in the pew pad.

Offertory *Awake, My Heart* by W. Held

***Doxology** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow/Doxology*

All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen 1623 Public Domain. [Adapted from #609]

Prayers of the People followed by Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

Sung Prayer Response

Come and Fill Our Hearts

(#466)

All: Come and fill our hearts with your peace,

You alone, O Lord, are holy,

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia!

Words & Music: Jacques Berthier © Les Presses de Taizé (France).

~Going Forth to Serve God~

Life in Our Church Community

***Song of Sending Forth**

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

306

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Festive Praise

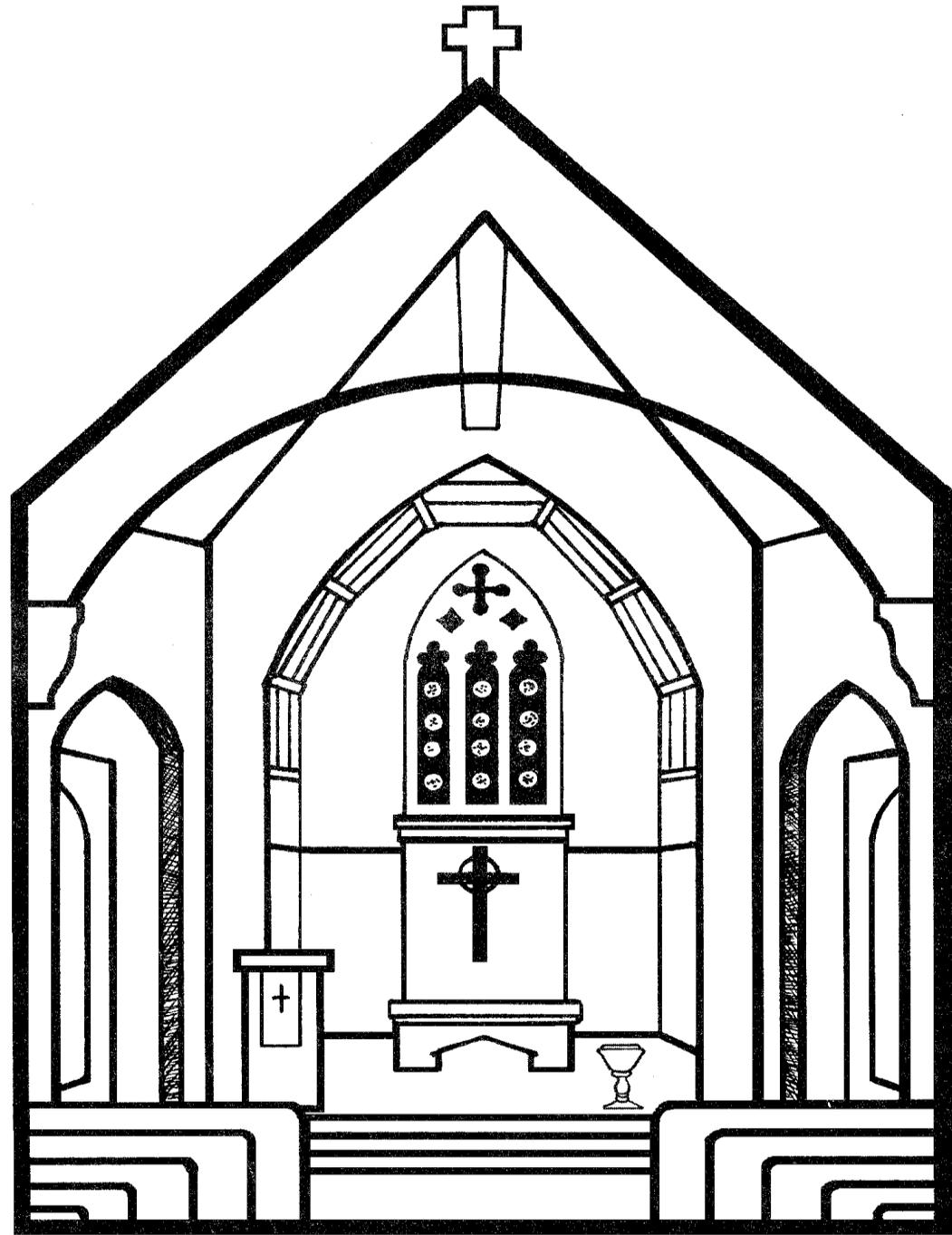
by D. Wagner

+++++

*Please stand, if you are able.

Electronic aid for the hearing impaired is available from the usher.

Music printed and recorded for congregational use only under CCLI # 11373529



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI