

Order of Worship for May 29, 2022
Seventh Sunday of Easter

Gathering Music: MY COUNTRY, 'TIS OF THEE

1 My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing:
land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride,
from every mountainside let freedom ring.

2 My native country, thee, land of the noble free, thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills;
my heart with rapture thrills like that above.

3 Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song.
Let mortal tongues awake; let all that breathe partake;
let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.

4 Our fathers' God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;
protect us by thy might, great God, our King.

O BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES

1 O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

2 O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!

America! America! God mend thine every flaw;
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!

Welcome

Rev. Barbara Macfie

Call To Worship

Liturgist

L: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy!

C: For God has ascended with shouts of triumph, and trumpet fanfare!

L: Our God is exalted on high, Sovereign over all the nations,

C: and Lord of our lives.

L: Let's worship together.

Hymn: A HYMN OF GLORY LET US SING!

1 A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs throughout the world shall ring:
Christ, by a road before untrod, ascends unto the throne of God.

2 The holy apostolic band upon the Mount of Olives stand,
and with his followers they see their Lord ascend in majesty.

3 To them the shining angels cry, "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"
"This is the Savior," thus they say. "This is his glorious triumph day."

4 "You see him now, ascending high up to the portals of the sky."
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see returning in great majesty."

5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, and be our future great reward.
Then, throned with you forever, we shall praise your name eternally.

6 O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to you let earth accord. Alleluia,
alleluia!

You are, while endless ages run, with Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Call to Confession

Liturgist

While we claim to celebrate the ascension of our Lord, the way we live proclaims
our lack of faith in his power to deal with the world.

Let us confess the incongruity between our faith and practice.
Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

Forgiving and gracious God, you have called us to be the church, to live out our Resurrection faith. You have asked us to place our trust in you and to bring to all the good news of your saving love. But we have failed to do this. We have given our faith a back seat to the troubles of the world and to the stresses in our own life. We look for the quick and easy answers. Forgive us for the smallness of our faith. You, who raised Christ from the dead, have promised to raise our spirits and bring us to new life. You have done this and yet, we remain static in our response to you. Clear our spirits of the clutter of everyday living. Help us to be open always to your word and your love. Challenge us to move in directions of peace and hope for all people. These things we pray in the name of our risen Lord. AMEN.

Words of Forgiveness

Rev. Barbara Macfie

Forgiveness and love have been poured out upon you, to offer hope to all nations. You are called and blessed to be messengers of God's good news to all people. AMEN.

Gloria Patri

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.

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Liturgist

Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

New Testament Reading:*Liturgist**Ephesians 1:15-23*

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit[a] of wisdom and Revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

New Testament Reading:*Rev. Barbara Macfie**Luke 24:44-53*

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Sermon

Rev. Barbara Macfie

"We Are Blessed"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Barbara Macfie

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living 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

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Barbara Macfie

Invitation To The Offertory

Liturgist

And now, not because we have too, but because we are grateful, let us return to God what is ours to share. Let us joyfully offer our time, our treasure, our commitment, our prayers.

Offertory

Anthem

My Peace

Doxology

GTG 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Liturgist

God, thank you – for your grace, for this community of faith, for the gifts of our lives. Bless these offerings today that they might be used to further your reign of righteousness here and now. Work through each of us and through the ministries of this congregation that we might glorify you in all we do. Amen.

Hymn

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

GTG #260

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone!
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood."

2 Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him, when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?

3 Alleluia! Bread of angels, here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your footstool, heaven your throne.
As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest;
here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.

Benediction

Rev. Barbara Macfie

Postlude

Steve Johnson