

STITTSVILLE UNITED CHURCH

Growing - Together - In Spirit

Easter 4 May 3, 2020

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WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Music to Prepare for Worship:

Invitation to Worship: (Based on Psalm 121)

All: I lift up my eyes to the hills and ask, "From where will my help come?" My help comes from the Holy One who made heaven and earth. The Lord is with us and never slumbers or sleeps. We are surrounded with God's care now and forever.

Hymn: "We are Pilgrims" #595

**1 We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**2 Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

**3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**4 I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.**

**5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

**6 Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

Prayer for the Journey:

#648

**God of the Way,
you are the road we travel, and the sign we follow;
you are bread for the journey, and the wine of arrival.
Guide us as we follow in your way,
holding on to each other,
reaching out to your beloved world.
And when we stray, seek us out and find us,
set our feet on the path again, and lead us safely home.
In the name of Jesus, our Companion, we pray. Amen.**

Welcome & the Life and Ministry of Our Church

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

**Scripture: Acts 2:42-47 & 4:32-35
Matthew 25:34-40**

Musical Offering:

Homily: "All For One, OR One For All?"

WE RESPOND IN LOVE

Hymn: "O For a World" #697

**1 O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.**

**2 O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.**

3 We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

**4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.**

**5 O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.**

Call to Prayer: (Playing of the Koshi Chimes)

**Prayers for Healing and Transformation
The Lord's Prayer**

Invitation to Receive and Offer God's Gifts:

Reverse Offering: Stittsville Food Bank

Minute for Mission: Local Outreach.

Song of Dedication: (#541 (VU))
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures high and low.
Give thanks to God in love made know,
Creator, Word and Spirit One. Amen..**

Prayer of Dedication:

WE SHARE IN COMMUNION

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving:

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: O Eternal Our God, we give thanks that from the very beginning, your Spirit breathed life and love into all creation. Through the ages people have opened their hearts to your Spirit, have cherished your gift of life and have shared your love. Even in the face of the darkness which stifles your Spirit, threatens life, and resists love, there were those who believed that One would come who would embody and proclaim abundant life. We give thanks that in Jesus the Christ your self-giving, world changing love has been revealed, that he came to bring justice and compassion, healing and peace to our hurting and broken world. And so we join our voices with the faithful through the ages to offer you our praises as we sing:

**All: #932 Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;
heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!**

One: O God we are grateful that to those bound by fear and despair Jesus offers the invitation to come and find rest and peace by joining in community at the banquet of life and love you spread before us. May we embrace his good news that justice and healing are here for all. Today we come to this feast of life knowing that Jesus' vision is not yet fully here. There are many without bread. There are those still oppressed. There are some who continue to abuse power. There are people who feel unworthy. This bread and cup remind us we that we are nourished by the love Christ embraced and shared. Send your Spirit among us God and on these gifts that we might be re-awakened to your life among us now and always. Amen.

Receiving the Bread and Cup:

(We each partake of the bread and cup.)

Prayer Following Communion:

We offer you our thanks, O God, that through sharing this bread and cup, we have been reminded of your love for us in Jesus Christ, and of our unity with all of your people around the world. May the sharing of this meal be a sign of our faith, that you journey with us and all people, even through the difficult times, that your love can remove any barrier within and among us, and that you call us to strive to bring the peace of Christ to all of our relationships and to all the world. Amen.

WE GO FORTH IN SERVICE

Hymn: "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" #602

- 1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.**
- 2 Before our Maker's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.**
- 3 We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear;
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**
- 4 This glorious hope revives our courage on the way;
that we shall live in perfect love in God's eternal day**

Commissioning and Blessing:

Threefold Amen: #967

Music To Inspire Us As We Go: