



April 25, 2021
4th Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

Heather Hinton

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Darren Cushman Wood

PRELUDE

This Joyful Eastertide

arr. A. Bullard

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Leader: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

People: This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our sight.

OPENING HYMN

Hail the Days of Resurrection

***When our faith is tried and tested by the evils we endure;
When our hope is stretched to breaking by the terrors in this world;
Lift our heads to see your goodness, stronger than the lords of earth.
Hail the days of resurrection! Christ has claimed the victory!***

***Faithful servants gather round us, bearing witness to God's strength;
Showing us the way of courage, through our days of hopelessness;
Lead us with the hope of Jesus, Guide and Guardian of the saints.
Hail the days of resurrection! Christ has claimed the victory!***

***Jesus lifts us to the city where God's glory fills the earth
River flowing, life bestowing, people singing, tears are dried.
Leaves of healing for the nations, gates of grace are open wide.
Hail the days of resurrection! Christ has claimed the victory!***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eric Galloway

FIRST LESSON

1 John 3:16-24

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?

Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and God knows everything.

Dear friends, if we do not feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence. And we will receive from God whatever we ask because we obey and do the things that please God.

And this is God's commandment: We must believe in the name of God's Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as we have been commanded. Those who obey God's commandments abide with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Spirit he gave us lives in us.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

arr. D. Forrest
Cathedral Singers

Kathleen Custer, Heather Hinton, piano

I know that my Redeemer lives, glory, hallelujah! What comfort this sweet sentence gives, glory, hallelujah! Shout on, press on, we're gaining ground, glory, hallelujah! The dead's alive, and the lost is found, glory, hallelujah!

He lives to bless me with his love; He lives to plead for me above; glory, hallelujah! Shout on, pray on, we're gaining ground, glory, hallelujah! The dead's alive, and the lost is found, glory, hallelujah!

He lives to crush the fiends of hell; glory, hallelujah! He lives and doth within me dwell; glory, hallelujah! Shout on, pray on, we're gaining ground, glory, hallelujah! The dead's alive, and the lost is found, glory, hallelujah!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Psalm 8

Sunil Kotian

Leader: O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

People: You have set your glory above the heavens.

Leader: Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,

People: to silence the enemy and the avenger.

Leader: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

People: the moon and the stars that you have established.

Leader: What are human beings that you are mindful of them,

People: mortals that you care for them?

Leader: Yet you have made them a little lower than God,

People: and crowned them with glory and honor.

Leader: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

People: you have put all things under their feet,

Leader: all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

**People: O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

HYMN OF PRAYER

Abide with Me

***Abide with me; fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me.***

***I need thy presence every passing hour. What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.***

***I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if thou abide with me.***

Leader: This is the good news which we have received,
 in which we stand, and by which we pray for the world:
 Christ was raised and Christ is appearing. Death has been swallowed up in victory.

**People: Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 the Light of the world.**

Leader: Therefore, let us pray for the renewal of creation:

**People: God, you delight in your creation,
 but the world has been wounded by our sins.
 Plant in us the Spirit of the risen Christ
 that we may protect the skies,
 restore the waters,
 and heal the land,
 through Jesus Christ your Word
 in whom all things hold together. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sunil Kotian

Leader: God, in your mercy....

People: Hear our prayer.

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 trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
 Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

SECOND LESSON

Acts 4:5-20

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus. When they saw the man who had been cured standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. So they ordered them to leave the council while they discussed the matter with one another. They said, 'What will we do with them? For it is obvious to all who live in Jerusalem that a notable sign has been done through them; we cannot deny it. But to keep it from spreading further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.' So they called them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, 'Whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.'

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Resurrecting Courage

Darren Cushman Wood

HYMN OF DEDICATION

God of Grace and God of Glory

***God of grace and God of glory, on the people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story, bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.***

***Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.***

***Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.***

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

arr. J. Biery

The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God and in thankful appreciation for the many cards and notes that have been sent since her stroke. Although she is unable to respond individually, they are all loved. Shared with love from Dotti Gerner McClure on her birthday.

Today's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood, *Senior Pastor*

Sunil Kotian, *Pastoral Intern*

Eric Galloway, *Green Team/Discipleship & Formation Chair*

John Hague & Jack Haefling, *Audio Visual*

Mark Gilgallon, *Director of Music*

Heather Hinton, *Organist*