



May 14, 2023 – Livestream  
Sixth Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunil Kotian

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

*Largo*  
from *Suite No. 3 in C Major*

J.S. Bach  
Wendy Muston, harp

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing praise to God whose power and love sustain us.

**People: To God all praise and glory!**

Leader: Sing praise to God our Mother who gently leads us.

**People: To God all praise and glory!**

Leader: Let all people sing praise and glory to the God of our salvation!

\*OPENING HYMN #126

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

***Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.***

***With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled:  
To God all praise and glory.***

***The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing,  
an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing.***

***As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory.***

***Thus, all my toilsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises,  
that earth may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and body bear your part:  
To God all praise and glory.***

***Let all who name Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory;  
let all who own his power proclaim aloud the wondrous story!  
Cast each false idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:  
To God all praise and glory.***

OPENING PRAYER

**Loving God,  
in whom we live and move and have our being,  
help us to choose life in you,**

that we may keep the commands of Jesus,  
follow the prompting of your Spirit,  
and witness to the hope that is within us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen.

ANTHEM

*Praise the One Who Makes Us One*

T. Trenney  
Voices in Accord

Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light.  
Praise the One who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, curing every dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word.  
Praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand.  
From this well comes living water, quenching thirst in every land.

Praise the One true love incarnate: Christ who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the One redeeming glory, praise the One who makes us one.

\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Psalm 66:8-20

Leader: Bless our God, O peoples,  
let the sound of God's praise be heard,  
who has kept us among the living,  
and has not let our feet slip.

**People: For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.**

Leader: You brought us into the net;  
you laid affliction on our loins;

**People: you let people ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us forth to a spacious place.**

Leader: I will come into your house with burnt-offerings;  
I will pay you my vows,  
that which my lips uttered  
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

**People: I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings,  
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;  
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.**

Leader: Come and hear, all you who worship God,  
and I will tell what God has done for me.

**People: I cried aloud to God,  
who was highly praised with my tongue.**

Leader: If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened.

**People: But truly God has listened,**

and has given heed to the voice of my prayer.  
Blessed be God,  
who has not rejected my prayer  
or removed his steadfast love from me.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shannon Priddy

FIRST LESSON

1 Peter 3:13-18

<sup>13</sup> Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So do not worry or be afraid of their threats. <sup>15</sup> Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. <sup>16</sup> But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. <sup>17</sup> Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong! <sup>18</sup> Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF PRAYER #2027

*Now Praise the Hidden God of Love*

***Now praise the hidden God of love, in whom we all must live and move,  
who shepherds us at ev 'ry stage, through youth, maturity, and age:***

***Who challenged us, when we were young, to storm the citadels of wrong;  
in care for others taught us how God's true community must grow:***

***Who bids us never lose our zest, though age is urging us to rest,  
but proves to us that we have still a work to do, a place to fill.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Amy Sell

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.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE #162

*Alleluia, Alleluia*

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Brandon Wallace

## \*DOXOLOGY #94

*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 17:22-32

<sup>22</sup>Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is served by human hands, as though God needed anything, but rather gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor God made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for and find the Lord—though indeed God is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For “In God we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are God’s offspring.”

<sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now the Lord commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because God has fixed a day on which the Lord will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom God has appointed, and has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’ <sup>32</sup>When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, ‘We will hear you again about this.’

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

*Knowing the Unknown God*

Darren Cushman Wood

## \*HYMN OF DEDICATION #152

*I Sing the Almighty Power of God*

***I sing the almighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.***

***I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food,  
who formed the creatures thru the Word, and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,  
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.***

***There's not a plant or flower below, but makes thy glories known,  
and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne;  
while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care;  
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.***

## \*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

*The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God in memory of our beloved mothers,  
Dorothy Anne Orr and Thelma June Hacker, and in honor of devoted mothers both past and present.  
(from the Jerry and Kathleen Hacker family)*

### This week's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood, *Senior Pastor*  
Sunil Kotian, *Pastor of Mission & Outreach*  
Amy Sell, *Minister of Discipleship & Formation*  
Brandon Wallace, *Minister of Youth & Young Adults*  
Shannon Priddy, *Liturgist*  
John Hague & Eric Russell, *Audio Visual*  
Mark Gilgallon, *Music Director*  
Heather Hinton, *Organist*

### Upcoming Events

Plant Exchange, Sunday, May 21, 9:30am-1pm  
Songs for World Peace, Sunday, May 21 at 11:00am  
King's Island Youth Trip, Tuesday, June 6  
Indy Pride Parade and Festival, Saturday, June 10  
North Declaration Reflections, Sundays, June 4-June 18, noon  
Youth Mission Trip to Gulf Coast (Hurricane Relief), June 17-23

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