



April 7, 2024 – Livestream Second Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

arr. D. Cherwien

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Grace and peace to you, for Christ has risen. Alleluia!

People: Praise Jesus Christ, the faithful witness.

Leader: Grace and peace to us, for the risen Christ claims us. Alleluia!

People: Praise Jesus Christ, the first born of the dead.

Leader: Grace and peace to all, for the risen Christ will set us free. Alleluia!

People: Praise Jesus Christ, the ruler of the powers of the world.

*OPENING HYMN #304

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heav'n in earth should ring.

Christ has brought us heaven's choices; heav'nly music, let it ring.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.

For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe.

Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.

When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong.

Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Ephesians 2: 17-22

¹⁷ Jesus brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. ¹⁸ Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

¹⁹ So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. ²⁰ Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. ²¹ We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. ²² Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Who are you who walk in sorrow down Emmaus' barren road,
 hearts distraught and hope defeated, bent beneath grief's crushing load?
 Nameless mourners, we will join you, we who also mourn our dead.
 We have stood by graves unyielding, eaten death's bare, bitter bread.
 Who is this who joins our journey, walking with us stride by stride?
 Unknown Stranger, can you fathom depths of grief for one who died?
 Then the wonder! When we told you how our dreams to dust have turned,
 then you opened wide the scriptures till our hearts within us burned!
 Who are you? Our hearts are opened in the breaking of the bread.
 Christ the victim, now the victor, living, risen from the dead!
 Great Companion on our journey, still surprise us with your grace!
 Make each day a new Emmaus; on our hearts your image trace!
 Who are we who travel with you on our way through life to death?
 Women, men, the young, the aging, wakened by the Spirit's breath!
 At the font you claim and name us, born of water and the Word.
 At the table still you feed us, host us as our Risen Lord!
 "Alleluia! Alleluia!" is the Easter hymn we sing!
 Take our life, our joy, our worship as the gift of love we bring.
 You have formed us all one people called from ev'ry land and race.
 Make your church your servant body, sent to share your healing grace!

SECOND LESSON

Acts 2:37-47

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Early Church Today

Amy Sell

*HYMN #561

Jesus, United by Thy Grace

***Jesus, united by thy grace and each to each endeared,
 with confidence we seek thy face and know our prayer is heard.***

***Help us to help each other, Lord, each other's cross to bear;
 let all their friendly aid afford, and feel each other's care.***

***Up unto thee, our living Head, let us in all things grow;
 till thou hast made us free indeed and spotless here below.***

*Touched by the lodestone of thy love, let all our hearts agree,
and ever toward each other move, and ever move toward thee.*

*To thee, inseparably joined, let all our spirits cleave;
O may we all the loving mind that was in thee receive.*

*This is the bond of perfectness, thy spotless charity;
O let us, still we pray, possess, the mind that was in thee.*

PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

Brandon Wallace

INVITATION, CONFESSION AND PARDON

Leader: Jesus Christ, the Lord of life,
invites us to celebrate his feast of hope.
Therefore, let us leave our sins behind
and confess our need for God's eternal grace.

**People: We confess, O God,
that we have not trusted you with our whole hearts.
We have disobeyed your commands and doubted your hope.
We have tolerated the forces of death in this world
and failed to bear witness to your life.
Forgive us and renew us for joyful service.**

Leader: Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.
Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die.
Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?'

People: Yes, Lord, I believe.

Leader: In the name of the risen Christ,
we are forgiven for our sins and freed from despair.

People: Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Face to Face

M. Burrows

Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face; here would I touch and handle things unseen;
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace, and all my weariness upon thee lean.
This is the hour of banquet and of songs; this is the heavenly table spread for me;
here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong the hallowed hour of fellowship with thee.
Here would I feed upon the bread of God, here drink with thee the royal wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside each earthly load, here taste afresh, the calm of sin forgiven.
Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear; the feast, though not the love, is past and gone.
The bread and wine remove; but thou art here, nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.

*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!***

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Amy Sell & Sunil Kotian

Our communion musical responses are found on the inside back cover of The Faith We Sing.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God...
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ....

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and cup....
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER #2278

*BREAKING THE BREAD

RECEIVING THE BLESSING

As persons are sharing the bread and cup in the sanctuary, extend your hands to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit. If you would like to receive communion from today's service please contact the church to schedule for a pastor to bring it to your home this week, nricketts@northchurchindy.com

COMMUNION HYMNS

#2077

You Alone are Holy

***You alone are holy, you alone are worthy;
you are filled with splendor and with awesome wonder.
For your sins you suffered, died and resurrected,
granting us salvation, giving us eternal life.***

***You alone are holy, you alone are worthy;
you are filled with splendor and with awesome wonder.
Send your Holy Spirit; may it shine upon us.
Let your wondrous glory with its radiance fill this place.***

#2226

Bind Us Together

***Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.
There is only one God, there is only one King;
there is only one body, that is why we sing.***

#557 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*
***Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.***

v. 1-2

***Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.***

PRAYER

Sunil Kotian

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #557 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*
***We share each other's woes, our mutual burdens bear;
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.***
***When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.***

v. 3-4

*THE BLESSING

Amy Sell

POSTLUDE *I Know That My Redeemer Lives Crowned Upon the Throne*

arr. D. Blackwell

*The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God and in memory of June Robbins
whose birthday was April 2nd by Amy, Clay, Campbell, Luke and Peter Robbins.*

The white carnation on the altar is in memory of Ruth Meyer who passed away on Saturday, March 30th.

*The red carnation is in celebration of the birth of James Michael on March 14.
James is the grandson of Ron and Julie Berry.*

Upcoming Events:

April 7, Special Friends Game Night, 4:00-6:00pm

Wednesdays, April 10 — May 1, 6:30pm

Tips for Church Leaders: A Study of New Testament Letters

April 14, Cookies and Canvas, 1:00pm

April 28, United Women in Faith Sunday Supper, noon

May 12, Children's Mothers' Day Musical: *Moonlight SUN-ata*, 9:45am

May 19, Haydn's *Mass for St. John of God*, 11:00am

June 2, Church Picnic, noon

Support for Family Promise:

April - Delivering meals on Thursdays

May - Collecting houseware items

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

John Hague, James Horton,

Allen McCormack

Audio Visual

Mark Gilgallon

Music Director

Heather Hinton

Organist