

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

May 9, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME & COMMUNITY SHARING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing to our God a new song.

God has done marvelous things!

Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

Let the world and its people sing together for joy!

HYMN “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” No. 263

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We have been called to follow Christ by obeying his one commandment: that we love one another as he has loved us. Let us confess how we have fallen short of that love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we have not loved you or each other with our whole hearts. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us toward wholeness, that we may be filled with your joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus loved the world by laying down his life. He calls us his friends. If we can forgive our friends, how much more fully does God forgive us! **Thanks be to God.**

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

Let us show our friendship with Christ and our love for our neighbors by giving generously so that we may bear the lasting fruit of Christ's love.

The Offering plate is in the Narthex. You may also choose to mail your offering to the church office, or give online through our website, cazpres.org.

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, in Jesus you have chosen us to be your friends and to know your will in the world. Therefore we pray in Jesus' name that these gifts spread your love near and far. Amen.

HYMN “You Are Before Me, Lord” No. 248

1 You are before me, Lord, You are behind,
And over me You have spread out Your hand;
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
Too high to grasp, too great to understand.

2 Then from Your Spirit where, Lord, shall I go;
And from Your presence where, Lord, shall I fly?
If I ascend to heaven You are there,
And still are with me if in hell I lie.

3 If I should take my flight into the dawn,
If I should dwell on ocean's farthest shore,
Your mighty hand will rest upon me still,
And Your right hand will guard me evermore.

4 If I should say, "Let darkness cover me,
And I shall hide within the veil of night,"
Surely the darkness is not dark to You:
The night is as the day, the darkness light.

5 Search me, O God, search me and know my heart;
Try me, O God, my mind and spirit try;
Keep me from any path that gives You pain,
And lead me in the everlasting way.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, in the reading of your Word, that we would hear what you have to say to us today.
Through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT: First John 5:1-6

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ^[a] has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. **3** For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, **4** for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. **5** Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

6 This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. **10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **11** I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command you. **15** I do not call you servants^[a] any longer, because the servant^[b] does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. **16** You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. **17** I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

SERMON

"Friends of Jesus"

PRAYERS OR INTERCESSION

HYMN

“I Danced in the Morning”

No. 358

1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

2 I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance, and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and for John;
They came with me and the dance went on. [Refrain]

3 I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,
And they left me there on a Cross to die. [Refrain]

4 I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
But I am the Dance and I still go on. [Refrain]

5 They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

We are delighted to have you join us in worship today!

*You will find First Presbyterian Church to be a welcoming,
inclusive and affirming community of faith.*

*If you are a guest with us this morning, please take a
moment to fill out one of the Guest Information Cards can
be obtained from and usher. If you have any questions
about this church, its history or its mission, please feel free
to ask one of our greeters, ushers, members, or pastor.*

*Please be mindful of others in the congregation who wish to be in
silent meditation upon entering the sanctuary.*

Please silence all cell phones.

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND ASSISTED
HEARING DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE**

Please see an usher for assistance

IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Liturgist: Kevin Curtis

Usher: Diana Markowitz

May Flowers: Kris Curtis

CHURCH OFFICE (315) 655 – 3191

Office@cazpres.org

Office Hours: Mon – Fri, 9am – 3pm

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