



Worship for April 26, 2020

PRELUDE

"Amazing Grace"

OPENING MEDITATION

Holy God, we are Easter people, people of hope and resurrection, but a lot of days still seem like Good Friday. We feel stuck in pain and loss, fear and anxiety, worry and doubt. Resurrection power seems to be in short supply, and we are not sure how your power impacts the difficulties and suffering we face. Renew us again, dear Friend. Come alongside us and speak words of grace and truth to us. Open our eyes to your constant presence and remind us that you are always working out your redemptive purposes in our lives and in our world. Amen.

LITANY CALL TO WORSHIP FOR EASTER PEOPLE

Voice 1: Walking with Christ is a journey of faith.

Voice 2: We may not know where God is leading.

Voice 1: We may not see a clear path in front of us.

Voice 2: We may not understand our circumstances.

Voice 1: We likely won't have answers to the "why" questions.

Voice 2: We sometimes won't like what unfolds along the way.

Voice 1: Hardship, suffering, illness and loss challenge us and require great trust.

Voice 2: We won't always see God's hand or recognize God's voice.

Voice 1: Walking with Christ is a journey of faith.

Voice 2: Therefore, we choose to trust even in the midst of doubt or fear.

Voice 1: We look for evidences of God's grace and mercy.

Voice 2: We hope in the One whose faithfulness and love are never ending.

All: Let us walk with Christ this day. Hallelujah! Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful Savior, although blind, we think we see. We are blind to your presence among us in those who are poor or lonely. We have made invisible those who are mentally or emotionally ill. We must remember the silent cries of children living with unimaginable and unrelenting abuse. We ignore the refugee, the hungry or homeless --

what, after all, can we do to make a difference in the midst of such overwhelming need? We convince ourselves that you came to save people just like us, and, therefore, what concerns us must concern you. For our pride and self-centeredness, Lord, we ask your forgiveness. For our lack of compassion and our complicity in the inequities between peoples, we confess our sin. Open our eyes and our hearts to see the truth, and turn us away from ourselves that we might desire and pursue your way of righteousness, justice and peace. We thank you for your mercy which is greater than all our sin. For the sake of Christ, we pray. Amen.

HYMN #819

"Be Still My Soul" (verse 1)
Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide,
Who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Prayer for Illumination

Merciful Savior, too often our eyes are as dim as those of the two disciples who walked to Emmaus. You stand in our very midst, but we are unaware and disconnected. We sit with you at the dinner table but look right past you. You speak to us, but our hearing is dull. We read the Scriptures, but we fail to understand. Lord, we want to know you, to see you, to hear your Word to us and to apply it to our lives. Open our hearts and minds, we pray; speak to us through your Spirit so this Word, as it is read and proclaimed, penetrates us with the truth of your resurrection power. Amen.

A READING FROM REVELATION Revelation 7:9-17 Pastor Dave Henry

SPECIAL MUSIC ***"Purify My Heart"*** by David Kauffman
Dr. Natasia Sexton

NEW TESTAMENT READING Revelation 21: 1-6 and Acts 11

SERMON "A Worthwhile Life" Pastor Angela Madden

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

INVITATION TO SERVE

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God, we thank you for the gifts and blessings that you lavish on your creation. It is as your children, heirs of your grace and filled with your Spirit, that we bring our tithes and offerings to you. Multiply and use them, we pray, to spread the gospel, feed the hungry, heal the sick and bring grace, compassion and wholeness where there is fear, loneliness, violence and despair. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Dave Henry

INFO ABOUT BLUE/CASA DOMESTIC ABUSE

LAMPLIGHTER MOMENT

HYMN #366

"Love Divine, All Love's Excelling" (verses 1 & 4)

**Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion;
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.**

**Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.**

BENEDICTION

Spirit of Wisdom and Light, shine in the deepest recesses of our minds and hearts. Allow no hiddenness to remain in us. Instead, flood us with the truth of your Word, which has the power to change and renew us. Move us from blue and placidness to the brilliant blue of hope. For truth is found in the Word Incarnate, and the truth will set us free. Trifold Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"