

6th Week of Easter

The final week of Easter, we listen to a story that reminds us to love. Our story calls us to a love that is not an idea or an emotion, but an act of the will on behalf of another's well-being, even if that means sacrificing our own. – *John Westerhoff*

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. – *John 15:9-10*

Hymn

Praise, I will praise you Lord, with all my heart.
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways
and glorify your name.
Praise, I will praise you, Lord,
with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

Prayer

O Beloved One,
we rejoice as we remember your faithfulness and steadfast love
revealed in the risen Christ.
Surround us with that faithfulness and steadfast love
Fill us with generosity and courage
so that we may be called your friends
and go forth to befriend your world. In Jesus' name.

Hymn

Love, I will love you Lord, with all my heart.
O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways
and glorify your name.
Love, I will love you Lord, with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!
Words: based on Psalm 9:1-2, Claude Frayssé © 1976 Claude Frayssé
Music: JE LOUERA I'ETERNAL, Clause Frayssé

**Scripture Reading
Prayer for
Illumination**

Lord, we do not always find it easy
to recognize your coming to us.
Come, reveal yourself to us.
Set our heavy hearts on fire with love for you,
and send us on our way rejoicing.
For your name's sake. Amen.

A Reading from the gospel according to John:

John 15:9-17

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You Lord, Christ.

Reflection

God's sacrificial love for us has been demonstrated in the mystery of Christ's passion and death and resurrection. When we were most unlovable, God revealed passionate love for us so that we, being so loved, might be able to love the unlovable and the unloved. So our human story of needing to be loved without merit and God's story of gracious love for each of us intersect. As we have lost ourselves in that love during our Easter season, we are reminded to share that love with the whole world. So God's story and our stories go on. - John Westerhoff

Silence

Prayers

O God, your Son remained with his disciples after his resurrection, teaching them to love all people as neighbours.
As his disciples in this particular time,
we offer our prayers on behalf of the universe
in which we are privileged to live
and our neighbours with whom we share it.

We pray:

- for your creation, that it may continue to regain its life as it rests from the busyness of the people who dwell in it.
- for the leaders of the nations to pay attention to the global life that it may mandate the people to be more conscious about the care of the environment.
- for all patients of covid 19, may they be healed and comforted by your healing grace and mercy through the doctors and nurses who care for them.
- for the leaders of the church that they may gain wisdom about how to do church at this challenging time and be enlightened about how to move forward after the congregations go back to the churches.
- for all of us, people of the earth, that we will be renewed to love, connect and care for each other and the world we live in.

All pray...

**Open our hearts to your power moving
around us, between us and within us,
until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy,
in communities transformed by justice and compassion,
and in the healing of all that is broken. Amen.**

Silence

God of love,
plant us in the soil of your grace.
Nurture us with the strength of Christ,
the vine of everlasting life.
Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit,
which flows through us today and all days.
Abide in us,
that we may abide in you
and live in your love.
In your holy name, we pray. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

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.

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

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.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1830 arr: Michael Burkhardt

Leading in Worship

Justin Chan, *Worship leader*

Rianna Cardano, *Song leader*

Daisy Howe-Chia, *Scripture reader*

Choir:

Ng Beng Choo, Lydia Chan, Michael Lee, Jonathan Cheong, Peter Goh

Musicians:

Amelia Leo, *piano*; Loraine Muthia, *organ*; Shannon Chng, *trumpet*

Worship Resources

Westerhoff, John III. *A Pilgrim People: Learning through the Church Year*. New York, NY: Seabury Classics, 2005.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Susan A. Blain. from *Friends of God: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday of Easter*, https://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways, accessed on 4 May 2020.

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