

Unity Moravian Church

May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

THE CONGREGATION PREPARES FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

God Leads Us Along

arr. L. Riley

HEARING GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

LITURGY

CHRISTIAN UNITY

Almighty God, you are the one who called this universe into being. Out of nothing you created everything that is.

By your power you hold together all space and time and substance.

By your hand alone, Creator God, the inanimate elements became alive so that we could live and move and have our being.

We celebrate life, the precious life you have given us, and we celebrate that unity of mind and emotions, of body and soul, that you want us to enjoy and share with each other.

We rejoice in the centrality of Jesus Christ in all your works, for he was with you from the very beginning, and is supreme over all creation.

We praise you that Christ is before all things, and that in him all things hold together, especially our very fragile, vulnerable, and often broken lives.

TUNE: DUKE STREET (22 Q)

*Lord of all being, throned afar, Your glory flames from sun and star;
Center and Soul of every sphere, yet to each loving heart how near!*

*Lord of all life, below, above, whose light is truth, whose warmth is love,
Before your ever-blazing throne we ask no luster of our own.*

We know that we will remain less than the whole persons you have called us to be in Christ Jesus until we acknowledge our sins to you, and so we bow before you and pray:

Almighty God, we confess that we have tried to run away and hide from you. We constantly deceive ourselves into thinking that we can live without you. We have made idols of our own achievements. We have treated other persons as though they did not bear your image. We have failed to enfold and include all persons within the outstretched and open arms of Jesus Christ, our Savior. And we have left undone those deeds of lovingkindness and godly justice that you want us to pursue in your name. Bring your Spirit upon us in a gracious, healing way. Make us agents of reconciliation as we live within your holy presence. Amen.

TUNE: BEECHER

*Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit, let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

Mark 1: 16 – 31

Lector: This is the Word of God for the People of God

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“Yes! Jesus Is My Savior”

Swahili song from Kenya/Arr. by Hal Hopson

Quintet: Beverly Merritt, Wayne Yancey, Deeje Culbertson, Sharon Dailey, Jay Parsons

TEXT FOR THE DAY

John 1: 35 – 45

HYMN 640

“Christ for the World We Sing”

(stanzas 1 & 4)

*Christ for the world we sing,
the world to Christ we bring with loving zeal;
the poor, and them that mourn, the faint and overborne,
sin-sick and sorrow-worn whom Christ doth heal.*

*Christ for the world we sing,
the world to Christ we bring with joyful song;
the newborn souls, whose days reclaimed from error's ways,
inspired with hope and praise, to Christ belong.*

THE MESSAGE FOR TODAY

“Legacies of the Disciples: Philip, Andrew and Peter”

SILENT REFLECTION

INTERLUDE

Breathe on Me / Let Others See Jesus in You

arr. J. Baas

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

WORSHIP BY GIVING

[For online giving: You may use your “Tithely” application you downloaded on your smartphone, or go use this link: <https://bit.ly/Unity-Gives>; and we now have the Moravian Ministries Foundation giving portal available to us at <https://mmfa.info/giving-portal/>
Or, as always, you may send a check via U.S. Mail to the church]

CONCERNS AND JOYS FOR THE COMMUNITY, NATION AND WORLD

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray together for the grace that we need, saying:
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Dear God, as we your people gather in every time and place around this wondrous earth, may we be strengthened by our awareness of one another and united by our mutual prayers.

Hear us and help us all, we pray.

We thank you, gracious God, for establishing the church as a single body of interdependent members, each having a place and purpose.

**We know that we need each other,
and are called to appreciate the great variety of gifts you have given us to use.**

May the variety of traditions and customs of your whole church become a multitude of lights to reveal the good news needed by people everywhere.

May the variety of our ministries and service convey your redemptive love and bind us ever closer to one another.

**Grant us grace to unite in essentials,
to accept diversity in non-essentials,
and to love one another in all things.**

Help us to rejoice with those who are feeling joy and delight.
Help us to sing with those who are singing your love and praise.

Help us to taste the agony of those who are hurting.
Help us to share the burden of those who are in distress.

Take away jealousy and resentment from our hearts when we see others achieving success.

**Fill us with that spirit of unity in Christ that lets us see and feel and know
that we all belong to you through the grace we have received.**

O God, teach us to know and love the world-wide church called out of all peoples and nations. Make visible the unity that you desire as we express a spirit of reconciliation in all our relationships. Show us that we are part of the one and only body of Jesus Christ, unified by faith, scattered for witness and service. Lead us to appreciate the richness of our diversity and your creative power at work in our various traditions and customs. Make us all one with you by the inspiration and guidance of your Spirit.

Lead us into lives worthy of our calling in Christ, with all lowliness, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another in love, and eager to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

We pray for this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE 605

“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

(1st stanza)

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia!*

