



A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

May 2, 2021
11:00am
Fifth Sunday of Easter

PEACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

301 Guinness Drive ▪ Winterville, North Carolina 28590-9943 ▪ (252) 355-2273

www.peacepresbyterian.org

Grow in Grace, Live in Peace, Serve the Lord

We Gather as God's People

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the day the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

PRELUDE

Impromptu in A-flat Op 94, No 6 (Allegretto)

F. Schubert

CALL TO WORSHIP

1 John 4: 7-12

Paul Gares, liturgist

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

In this love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is perfected in us.

*HYMN #366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

**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, O breathe, thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee 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.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Do not let your hearts be troubled, but confess your sins and God will give you peace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of birth, God of joy, God of life, God of infinite possibilities, we come to you as a people hungry for good news. We have been so dead to miracles that we often miss the world's rebirth. Our cynicism prohibits our ability to see what you might be doing in the lives of the people around us, especially people who seem so different than ourselves. We are so preoccupied with ourselves that we overlook the joy you offer us. We have been so concerned with our agendas and routines that we miss the new life you offer us and our responsibility to communicate your love and grace to all people. Forgive our selfishness. Forgive our lack of vision. Forgive our fear of taking risks and following your Spirit into strange places. Open our hearts and our eyes to receive your gifts of life; open our lips and our hands to share with all of your creation. Hear now our silent individual confession.

(Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ comes with healing light into our locked places and shadowy hurts, resurrecting our spirits and breathing into us new life. As God's own forgiven people, go to bring peace, love, forgiveness and new life to the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS

To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory; great things he has done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him the glory: great things he has done!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Impromptu in A-flat Op 142, No 2

F. Schubert

We Share God's Word

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 8: 26-40

SERMON

"Called Out of Our Comfort Zones"

Reverend Debbie Osterhoudt

We Respond to God's Word

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From "A Brief Statement of Faith"

In life and death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.

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.

With believers of every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SOLO

Time Now to Gather
Peggy Vaughan, soprano

WELCOME SONG

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Our Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

We Go Forth As God's People

*HYMN #297

In Christ Called to Baptize

In Christ called to baptize, we witness to grace and gather a people from each land and race.
In deep, flowing waters, we share in Christ's death, then, rising to new life, give thanks with each breath.

In Christ called to witness, by grace we will preach the life-giving gospel; God's love we will teach.
By grace may our living give proof to our praise in costly compassion reflecting Christ's ways.

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

May the Love of the Lord

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May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.
May God's love dwell in you, throughout every day.
May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

POSTLUDE

Impromptu in A-flat Op 94, No 6 (Trio)

F. Schubert

Worship Leadership Debbie Osterhoudt, Preacher Paul Gares, Liturgist
Peggy Vaughan, Music Director & Soloist John Holter, piano Ron Skinner, audio & video
Ushers: Margaret Cox, Ruth Hines, Joanne Lang Joanne Lang, Worship Ministry Team Chair

*You are invited to stand.