



Celebration of Worship on the Lord's Day

Third Sunday of Easter
April 15, 2018



Prelude

"Sonatina in C Major, Mvt. 2"

by Clementi

Westminster Peal

Choral Call to Worship

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

by Donald Fishel

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Praise to his name. Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation...

Gathering as the Children of God

Elder Charlie Gray

One: We are called to be God's children.

All: God's love has been poured on us through Jesus Christ!

One: Fear and doubt are gone!

All: Joy and Celebration ring in our hearts!

One: Come, let us raise our voices in song!

All: Let us offer our hearts and souls to God in prayer and praise. Amen.

† Opening Hymn No. 121

"That Easter Day with Joy was Bright"

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Gray

Gracious God, you give to us your greatest gift, Your Son Jesus Christ, as we still don't understand what is going on. You call us to be people of courage and hope; and yet we run and hide, doubting and fearing. You challenge us to proclaim our faith; but we huddle in darkness whispering our words of discouragement. Shake us up, Lord! Forgive us when we seem to need prodding over and over again. Help us to see the presence of Jesus in our lives; and remind us of all that He taught us, to help us to live as disciples, serving you by serving others. Change us! Remold us! Make us truly the disciples you have called us to be. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Elder Gray

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

† Response

"Gloria, Gloria"

(hymn no. 576)

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

† Those who are able, please stand

Prayer for Illumination

Elizabeth Small

Scripture Lesson

1 John 3:1-7

Elizabeth Small

Lloyd Larson is a contemporary composer and arranger, active since 1982. He has published over 1,500 works for choir, keyboard, instrumentalists, and handbells.

Anthem/Special Music

"Proclaim the Mighty Power of God"

by Lloyd Larson and Isaac Watts

Proclaim the mighty power of God! Praise His wonder and His love.

Proclaim the mighty power of God!

I sing the mighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,

That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;

The moon shines full at His command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;

He formed the creatures with His Word, and then pronounced them good.

Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,

If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flower below, but makes Your glory known;

And clouds arise, and tempests blow, but order from Your throne;

While all that borrows life from You is ever in Your care,

And everywhere that we can be, You, God are present there.

Time with the Children

Rev. Susan Haynes

See children's options on back of bulletin

Scripture Lesson (p. 85 NT)

Luke 24:36b-48

Rev. Haynes

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Continuing the Story

Rev. Haynes

† **Affirmation of Faith**

From the Confession of 1967

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for all when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to us, moves us to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ... The new life does not release us from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, fear. We still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as we mature in love and faithfulness in our lives with Christ, we live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that our new lives are pleasing to God and helpful to others.

"The Confession of 1967 addresses the church's role in the world [at that time]... It calls the church to obedient action, particularly in response to social problems such as racial discrimination, nationalistic arrogance, and family and class conflict. It sees the life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ as the pattern for the church's mission today and calls on all Christians to be reconciled to God and to one another." From the PC (USA) Book of Confessions



† **Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Haynes

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Please exchange greetings of peace and welcome with your neighbor.

† **Hymn No. 366**

"Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"

Church Family Life

Rev. Haynes

Please take this time to pass the attendance notebooks located at the end of the pew row. If you are a visitor, we invite you to visit our information center located in the Narthex.

Prayers of the People

Elizabeth Small



Offering

Offertory

"Prière"

by Pierre de Bréville

† **Response**

The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

† **Prayer of Thanksgiving and the 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.

† **Closing Hymn No. 332**

"Live into Hope"

† **Benediction**

Rev. Haynes

† **Congregational Response**

"Amen"

(hymn no. 587)

† **Postlude**

"Improvisation"

by Nick Johns-Cooper

† Those who are able, please stand

Benediction, from the Latin words "to speak well," is a short invocation for divine blessing, help, and guidance. Benedictions have been a part of the liturgical makeup of worship services since very early in Christian history and have been practiced widely in both eastern and western branches of Christianity. In Presbyterian worship services, benedictions typically happen at the closing of the worship service and are sometimes accompanied by a charge to the congregation as it is sent from worship into the world to serve.

Worship Enrichment. Worship Enrichment is led by Carrie Southard at the 11:00 service after the children's time. Children, K - 5th grade, are invited to join Carrie in the chapel for worship enrichment activities. The children will return to their parents during the Hymn following the "Passing of the Peace." Children 4 years and younger who opt to attend 11:00 worship until the children's time, will depart for childcare to Room 120 for the remainder of the service.



MVPC Mission Statement

Blessed to Be a Blessing

We are a Presbyterian church filled with love and energy – an inclusive congregation committed to spiritual growth through *worship, study, fellowship, and service.*

- As **children of God**, we seek to *praise* God in worship and in all that we say and do
- As **disciples of Jesus Christ**, we *listen* to scripture, tradition, one another, and the world in order to understand God's will for us as individuals and as a community
- As **members of a family of faith**, we strive to *love* one another unconditionally, sharing our joys and standing beside one another in our struggles
- **Moved by the Spirit**, we *serve* our gracious God by taking that with which we have been blessed and turning it into blessings for others.



Giving to MVPC is easy online

<http://mvpchurch.org/index.php/donate/>

MVPC Staff

Rev. Susan Haynes, Interim Pastor
TJ Shirley, Minister of Worship & Arts
Elizabeth Small, Dir. of Youth Ministry
Rev. Ricardo Green, Pastor of Spanish Ministries
Nick Johns-Cooper, Organist

Lillianette Cook, Handbell Choir Director
Steve Ray, Church Finance & Operations
Jill Thompson, Administrative Assistant
Yvonne White, Financial Secretary
Lauren McClintock, Communications & Membership Coord.