



Celebration of Worship on the Lord's Day

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Graduate Recognition Sunday
May 6, 2018



The banners displayed at the front of the sanctuary during the Easter season represent the Chi Rho, the first two letters of Christ in Greek representing one of the earliest monograms for Jesus, and the triumphant lamb of God, a symbol of Christ used throughout the New Testament.

Prelude

"Priere à Notre Dame"

by Leon Boëllmann

Westminster Peal

Choral Call to Worship:

"What is This Place?"

by Huub Oosterhuis, David Smith, and Bernard Huijbers

What is this place, where we are meeting? Only a house, the earth its floor.

Walls and a roof, sheltering people, windows for light, an open door.

Yet it becomes a body that lives, when we are gathered here, and know our God is near.

And we accept bread at his table, broken and shared, a living sign.

Here in this world, dying and living, we are each other's bread and wine.

This is the place where we can receive what we need to increase God's justice and peace.

Gathering as the Children of God

Elder Rita Sheffey

One: Sing to the Lord a new song, a song of hope and rejoicing!

All: Praise God for wonderful acts of mercy and kindness!

One: God has remembered God's faithful ones.

All: God has poured blessing upon blessing upon us!

One: Praise the Lord, all the earth, shout your praise!

All: Rejoice, for God is truly with us. Amen.

† **Opening Hymn No. 220**

"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Elder Sheffey

Jesus, friend and brother, you taught us to abide in your generous love, for it completes our lives and gives us joy; you ask us to love others as you have loved us, for it brings your creation to fruition. We sometimes struggle to love the people in our lives as you have loved us. Forgive us, we pray, and teach us your love again. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Elder Sheffey

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

† Those who are able, please stand

† **Response**

"Gloria, Gloria"
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

(hymn no. 576)



Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Ricardo Green

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 98

Rev. Green

Anthem/Special Music *"Renew Thy Church, Her Ministries Restore"* arr by TJ Shirley

*Renew thy church, her ministries restore: both to serve and adore.
Make her again as salt throughout the land, and as light from a stand.
'Mid somber shadows of the night, where greed and hatred spread their blight,
O send us forth with power endued; Help us Lord, be renewed.
Teach us Thy Word, reveal its truth divine; on our path let it shine.
Tell of Thy works, Thy mighty acts of grace; from each page show Thy face.
As Thou hast loved us, sent Thy Son, and our salvation now is won,
O let our hearts with love be stirred: Help us, Lord, know Thy Word!
Teach us to pray, for Thou are ever near; Thy still voice let us hear.
Our souls are restless till they rest in Thee: This our glad destiny.
Before Thy presence keep us still, that we may find for us Thy will
And seek Thy guidance every day: Teach us Lord, how to pray!
Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind, Everyone, everyone.
Break down old walls of prejudice and hate; leave us not to our fate.
As thou hast loved and giv'n Thy life to end hostility and strife,
O share Thy grace from heaven above: Teach us Lord, how to love!*

Scripture Lesson

Acts 10:44-48

Rev. Susan Haynes

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Beyond Beef

Rev. Haynes

† **Affirmation of Faith** From the Confession of 1967

The institutions of the people of God change and vary as their mission requires in different times and places. The unity of the church is compatible with a wide variety of forms, but it is hidden and distorted when variant forms are allowed to harden into sectarian divisions, exclusive denominations, and rival factions. . . The church gathers to praise God, to hear God's word for humankind, to baptize and to join in the Lord's Supper, to pray for and present the world to God in worship, to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to order and organize its own corporate life, to be tested, renewed, and reformed, and to speak and act in the world's affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time.



† 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.

“Though I May Speak”: The tune of this hymn, *O Waly Waly*, is a traditional English melody that dates back to the early 1700s and was a very popular folk tune in the Appalachian region of the United States.

† Hymn No. 335

“Though I May Speak”

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.

Graduate Recognition

*Richard Green - Dunwoody HS, Mitch Lutes - MVPS,
Chris Sprung - Riverwood HS*



As we receive communion this morning, the pastor will invite the congregation to partake in the sacrament. Please follow the row in front of you and proceed down the middle aisles. If you prefer gluten free bread, please take from the pastor serving in the middle. When receiving communion, you may respond with “Thanks be to God,” “Amen,” or in silence. After partaking from the bread and cup, please leave your cup with the elder holding the empty tray and return to your seat up the outer aisles. If you prefer to be served at your seat, please raise your hand and someone will serve you.

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Rev. Haynes

Invitation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks for the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Blessed are you...hymn of your glory.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: All holy God...the mystery of faith.

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Pastor: So now eternal God...Our Father...(hymnal pg. 16)

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

Offering

Offertory

"Adagio"

by Georg Muffat

† **Response**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

The Doxology

† **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Rev. Green

† **Closing Hymn No. 310**

"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"

† **Benediction**

Rev. Haynes

† **Congregational Response**

"Amen"

(hymn no. 587)

† **Postlude**

"Tocatta in E Minor"

by Pachelbel

† Those who are able, please stand



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/>