

Hearing God's Call to Become Community

Prelude: "We Have Heard a Joyful Sound" # 479

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn of Gathering:** "The Day of Resurrection" # 228

1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad; the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God. From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free, our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.
2. Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright; the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light; and, listening to his accents, may hear so calm and plain; the voice of Christ, and hearing, may raise the victor strain.
3. Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth its song begin! The world resound in triumph, and all that is therein; let all things seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend; for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

Seeking God's Mercy and Pardon

*Responsive Call to Worship *Psalm 66.8-20* 8:30am Jim Ward/10:30 Julia Schwartz

L: Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,

C: **who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.**

L: For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

C: **You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;**

L: you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

C: **I will come into your house with burnt-offerings; I will pay you my vows,**

L: those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

C: **I will offer to you burnt-offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.**

L: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.

C: **I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.**

L: If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

C: **But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.**

ALL: *Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me.*

* = *Please stand*

Proclaiming and Hearing the Word

Children's Message

Text

Message

Acts 17.16-34

"Jesus...God of All People?"

Rev. Schwartz & Abigail

(NRSVA)

Rev. Schwartz

Time for Giving

Call for Our Offerings

8:30am Jim Ward/10:30am Roy McLellan

*Doxology:

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

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Prayer of Dedication

Receiving the Visible and Tangible Signs of God's Grace

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Congregational/Pastoral Prayer

Communion Meditation and Invitation 8:30am Rev. Schwartz/10:30am Roy McLellan

The Lord's Prayer

Communion Music:

"I'd Rather Have Jesus"

SHR # 391

*Come forward to the Lord's Table to partake of Communion

Departing to Serve Where God Leads

Closing Hymn:

"You Servants of God"

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1. You servants of God, your Savior proclaim, and publish abroad that wonderful name: the name, all victorious, of Jesus extol; who, sovereign and glorious now rules over all.
2. God's truth reaches high, almighty to save, and yet remains nigh: God's presence we have. The great congregation God's triumphs shall praise, ascribing salvation to Jesus always.
3. Salvation to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry aloud for what God has done. The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim: still veiling their faces, they worship the Lamb.
4. Then let us adore and render God's right, all glory and power, all wisdom and might, all honor and blessing with angels above, and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.

*Benediction

Rev. Schwartz

Postlude:

"O Christians, Haste"

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May 14, 2023

**Sixth Sunday of Easter
Liturgical Color: White**

Acts 17.16-34 (NRSVA) ¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the market-place every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, ‘What does this babblers want to say?’ Others said, ‘He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.’ (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹ So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, ‘May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?’ ²⁰ It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.’ ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

²⁹ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

³² When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, ‘We will hear you again about this.’ ³³ At that point Paul left them. ³⁴ But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

L: Christ is Risen!

P: He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

First Christian Church

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Sunday May 14, 2023 8:30am ☩ 10:30a.m.

Welcome! May your journey of Faith be encouraged while you seek God here today.