

# Sixth Sunday of Easter



*The Resurrection of Christ*  
Church of Saint Sebastian  
Porto Alegre, Brazil

May 10<sup>th</sup> 2026  
Portage Lake United Church

# Welcome and Announcements

*We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, source of all goodness and mercy.  
No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

- The next Consistory Meeting is Wednesday, May 13 at 6 p.m.
- There will be a Potluck following worship next Sunday honoring Beth and her service to the congregation.
- A memorial service for Jerry MacIness will be held this Saturday, May 16 at 11 a.m. at the MTU Forestry Building Atrium.
- Angel Mission needs: Shelf-stable milk and milk substitutes
- *Are there any other announcements?*



*Liturgical Color White and/or Gold  
Lectionary Year A*

President: Rev. Peter Norland  
Musician: Susie Byykkonen  
Greeters: Sze-Wen Tiang  
Reader: Nancy Beyers Sprague  
Prayer Writer: Greg Campbell  
Coffee: Dianne & Nancy  
Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen



*Madeline Larson 2023*

# MEDITATION

How do we get in touch with our  
chosenness  
when we are surrounded by rejection?  
I have already said that this involves  
real spiritual struggle.

*-Life of the Beloved, by Henri J.M. Nouwen*

# PRELUDE

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

## ✦ CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Bless our God, O peoples;  
let the sound of praise be heard!

**God has kept us among the living  
and has not let our feet slip.**

We went through fire and through water,  
yet God has brought us out to a spacious place.  
Come and hear what God has done for us,  
all who fear God.

**Surely God has listened to us and heard our prayers!  
Blessed be God, who is steadfast love.**



# +HYMN "Come Down, O Love Divine" Blue #313

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HOLY SPIRIT

John 14:23,26

313

## Come Down, O Love Divine

DOWN AMPNEY 6.6.11 D

Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)

Trans. Richard Frederick Littledale, 1867; alt.

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1. Come down, O Love di - vine, Seek out this soul of mine  
2. O let it free - ly burn, Till earth - ly pas - sions turn  
3. And so the yearn - ing strong With which the soul will long

And vis - it it with Your own ar - dor glow - ing;  
To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
Shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near, With - in my heart ap - pear,  
And let Your glo - rious light Shine ev - er on my sight,  
For none can guess God's grace, Till Love cre - ates a place

And kin - dle it, Your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

Music:- From the *English Hymnal*, 1906. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.



## ✝ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Faithful God, through all the ages, you have kept your promises.

You have freed us from the powers of scarcity and death for abundant new life.

Stay with us as we wait and watch for your Spirit with excitement and hope, that we may experience your love and share it with our lives, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

# + THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (Responsive)

In the waters of baptism,  
we receive God's promise and grace,  
we, together, are united with the Risen Christ.

**We give thanks for the gift of baptism.**

From the very beginning, O God,  
you have brought forth life from the waters.

At a time when all seemed lost, in a time of the great flood,  
**you made a way for new life through the waters.**

When your people cried for liberation parting the sea,  
**you made a way for new life through the waters.**

You entered into your creation, nurtured in the water of  
Mary's womb, and baptized in the river Jordan, through Jesus,  
**you made a way for new life through the waters.**

By your Spirit, you raised your servant from death, in his  
resurrected life you promised the renewal of all creation—  
that promise is for us, too.

**You make a way for new life through the waters.**

Your grace washes over us in the waters of baptism.

**United in Christ, you make us new.**

In these waters, we hear your Word to us:

**"You are my beloved."**

And that is our truth forever..



## + PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Greet each other with a sign of God's peace.*

Children of God, we are the body of Christ.

**By one spirit**

**we were baptized into one body.**

Keep the unity of the Spirit

in the bond of peace.

**Amen! We are bound by the love of Christ.**



# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture, reading,  
preaching and song*



## ✦ FIRST READING Acts 17:22-31

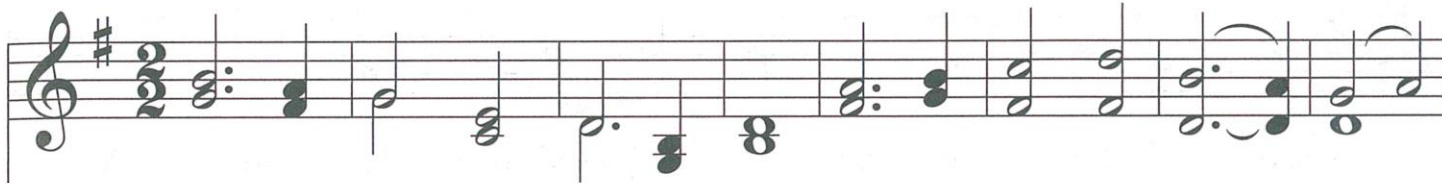
<sup>17:22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>17:23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>17:24</sup> 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, <sup>17:25</sup> 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. <sup>17:26</sup> 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, <sup>17:27</sup> 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. <sup>17:28</sup> 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.' <sup>17:29</sup> 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. <sup>17:30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>17:31</sup> 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."

## Second Reading 1 Peter 3:13-22

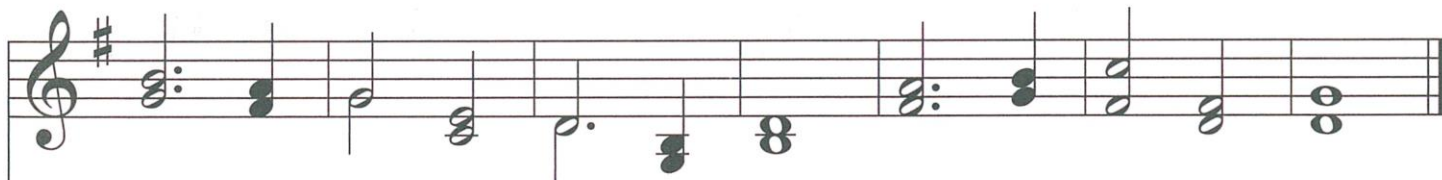
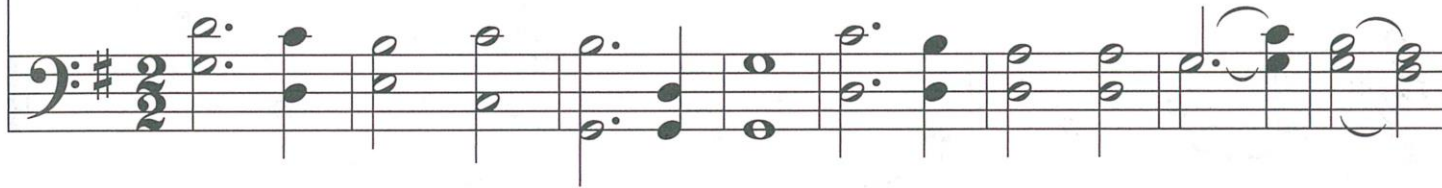
<sup>3:13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>3:14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>3:15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>3:16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>3:17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>3:18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>3:19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>3:20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>3:21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you--not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>3:22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

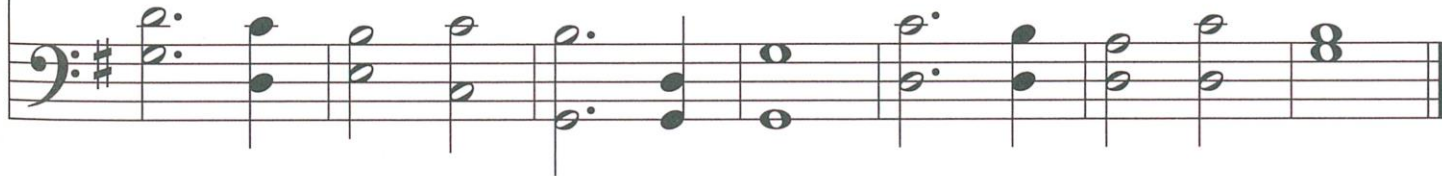
## Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace 425



- 1 Son of God, whose heart is peace, Son of God, most ho - ly,
- 2 Take a - way our sin - ful - ness, e - vil that im - pris - ons us;
- 3 Warm our hearts to love you, Lord, you who died to save us;



to your pres - ence we have come; give us now your love.  
free us from what trou - bles us; give our souls re - lease.  
gath - er us with - in your arms, Je - sus, on this day.



TEXT: Maori hymn; para. Shirley Erena Murray, 1989  
MUSIC: Maori melody  
Text © 1990 Christian Conference of Asia (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAMA NGAKAU MARIE  
7.6.7.5

## ✦ GOSPEL READING John 14:15-21

<sup>14:15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>14:16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>14:17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. <sup>14:18</sup> "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>14:19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>14:20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>14:21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

# Sermon



*Cloud of Unknowing*  
Kelly Latimore <https://kellylatimoreicons.com>

## ✚ OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**Righteous God,  
receive these gifts we offer  
from our hearts and hands  
that they and we might be of service  
for your glory and our neighbor's good.  
Amen.**



*Personification of Gentleness 1220-1240*  
Cathedrale d'Amiens  
Amiens, France

220

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Grateful

Musical notation for the first system, including treble and bass staves with chords (Dm, C, F, Bb, C, Dm, C, F, C) and lyrics in English and Spanish.

*English* In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re - joice!  
*Spanish* El Se - ñor es la nue - va fuer - za, el Se - ñor es mi can - tor.

Musical notation for the second system, including treble and bass staves with chords (Bb, A, 3, Dm, C, F, Bb) and lyrics in English and Spanish.

Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is  
 En él es - tá la sal - va - ción. En él con - fí - o, no te - me -

Musical notation for the third system, including treble and bass staves with chords (C, Am, Dm, Bb, C, F, Fine, Dm, C) and lyrics in English and Spanish.

near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near. In the  
 ré. En él con - fí - o, no tem - e - ré. El Se -

Text: The Community of Taizé; Sp. tr. Alejandro Pimentel (b. 1960)

Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

English text and music © 1991, Les Presses de Taizé (France), admin. GIA Publications, Inc.; Sp. tr. © 2001, CRC Publications

# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



# PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (ECUMENICAL)

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and forever.  
Amen.**



*Photograph by Ren Spring 2023*

SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

# 483 Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART 8.7.8.7.8.8.7

Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675

Trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864; alt.

Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566

1. Sing praise to God, who reigns a - bove, The God of all cre -  
2. What God's al-might - y power hath made, God's gra - cious mer - cy  
3. The Lord is nev - er far a - way, But through all grief dis -  
4. Thus all my glad - some way a - long, I sing a - loud Thy

a - tion, The God of power, the God of love, The God of  
keep - eth; By morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade God's watch - ful  
tress - ing, An ev - er pres - ent help and stay, Our peace, and  
prais - es That all may hear the grate - ful song My voice un -

our sal - va - tion; With heal - ing balm my soul is filled, And  
eye ne'er sleep - eth; With - in the king - dom of God's might, Lo!  
joy, and bless - ing; As with a moth - er's ten - der hand, God  
wea - ried rais - es. Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, Both

ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stilled:  
all is just and all is right:  
gent - ly leads the cho - sen band: To God all praise and glo - ry!  
soul and bod - y take your part:

\*May be sung in unison.

This tune in a lower key, 7

## ✦ CHARGE AND BLESSING

Go forth from this time and place  
but never from God's presence.  
Go forth to live your life showing the world  
the hope that is in you.  
Go forth knowing that as you go...  
the Holy One walks with you  
with strength and courage for the journey.  
Go, in peace to love and  
to serve the Holy One and God's good creation.



# POSTLUDE AND MEDITATION

According to the psalmist, God brought the people through trials, tests, burdens, and pain to a spacious place of life, breath, and salvation. God heard their prayers and opened them to deliverance.

Where have you felt such a spacious place?

What story do you tell of the ways that God is blessing you?

What story does your faith community tell of the ways in which God is blessing them?



*Thanks to:*

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland

Musician: Susie Bykkonen

Greeters: Sze-Wen Tiang

Reader: Nancy Beyers Sprague

Prayer Writer: Greg Campbell

Coffee: Dianne & Nancy

Children's Church: Olivia Bykkonen

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## Portage Lake United Church

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Rooted in the Trinity. Growing in God's Word.  
Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.