



Henrietta United Church of Christ

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Jason Boyd

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Ministers: Everyone!

Order of Worship

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:30 AM

May 2, 2021

WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING MUSIC

Robin Bower

Our gathering music will begin in the moments before worship. This will give you the opportunity to prepare for worship and to make any adjustments to volume on your computers or devices as needed.

You may also wish to have some bread and wine/juice – or bagel and coffee, or some other food and drink – ready ahead of time, so that we can commune together during the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

WELCOME!

Pastor Martha

CENTERING MUSIC (in unison)

God, prepare me to be a Sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving I'll be a living Sanctuary for You. (2x)

Adapted from John W. Thompson & Randy Lynn Scruggs

WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO GOD'S RENEWING PRESENCE

****CALL TO WORSHIP (one / many)**

God is the True Vine, and we are the branches.

Connected to God, we can bear good fruit!

Detached from God, we dry up and wither away.

Then let us reconnect with God and grow in grace!

May the Holy Spirit flow freely within us,

and may our fruit feed the world that God loves!

OPENING HYMN "Will You Come and Follow Me"

Will you come and follow me, if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind, if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see, if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide, if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Text: The Iona Community 1987. Tune: Scottish Traditional, arr. The Iona Community 1987.
Words and arrangement © 1987 Wild Goose Resource Group.

***PRAYER OF RENEWAL** (*Let us pray together...*)

O God, Source of life and love, we confess that we often fail to love ourselves and our neighbors. We often do not notice those in need, and we ignore the ones we do see. We often neglect our own needs, and reject help offered by others. We refuse your invitation to grow closer to you, denying ourselves and others the blessings of your forgiveness and grace. Forgive us, we pray! Show us how to give and receive your love more completely. Help us to abide in you, as you abide in us, that your life-giving grace may be known and shared among your people. Amen

***WORDS OF GOD'S ENDURING LOVE** (*one / many*)

Beloved, God hears our prayers and seeks to renew us each day! Let us live as God's dear children, branches on the vine of life, showered by the rain of

forgiveness, nourished by the Holy Spirit, and set free to serve in the name of Christ. **Alleluia and amen!**

CHILDREN'S TIME

WE MEET AT CHRIST'S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

UNISON COMMUNION SONG "As We Gather at Your Table"

As we gather at your table, as we listen to Your Word,
Help us know, O God, your presence, let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet, how to make Love's victory known.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., (1989); Tune in The Sacred Harp (1844).

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

Jesus used the ordinary food of his time to remind his friends of their unity with him and their covenant with God. As you partake of your own simple food and drink, you are invited to remember Christ's love and forgiveness, to give thanks for his sacrifice, and to ponder your part in God's unfolding world.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Adapted from Rev. Alydia Smith, United Church of Canada

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts. We are now commissioned to feed as we have been fed, to forgive as we have been forgiven, to love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

ANTHEM "Faith to Carry On" by Don Besig and Nancy Price Joe Green, soloist

PASSING OF THE PEACE (*one / many*)

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Please greet your neighbors in the spirit of Christ's love and peace by sharing messages of peace in the comments in our broadcast.

SUNG RESPONSE “There’s a Spirit of Love in This Place”

There’s a spirit of love in this place, there’s a spirit of love in this place.
You can’t see it, but it’s there, just as precious as the air.

There’s a spirit of love in this place.

O alleluia, sing alleluia! We bless your holy name.

O alleluia, sing alleluia! There’s a spirit of love in this place.

Words and Music by Mark Miller, 2003.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S GOOD NEWS

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 15:1-8

Holly LaPorta

MESSAGE

“Beloved, Be Loved, Be Love”+

Pastor Martha

HYMN

“He Came Singing Love”

He came singing love and he lived singing love; he died singing love.

He arose in silence.

For the love to go on, we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

He came singing faith and he lived singing faith; he died singing faith.

He arose in silence.

For the faith to go on, we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

He came singing hope and he lived singing hope; he died singing hope.

He arose in silence.

For the hope to go on, we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

He came singing peace and he lived singing peace; he died singing peace.

He arose in silence.

For the peace to go on, we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

Words and Music by Colin Gibson, 1972, © 1994 Hope Publishing Company.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER

During our prayer time today, you will be asked to lift prayers aloud from your own space, or by sharing them as comments in our broadcast. We will not be able to read them during our service, but know that God hears them, always.

WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD'S SERVICE

INVITATION TO GRATEFUL GIVING

Our giving today, and our gratitude to God, cannot be shared in person. But, after worship, you are invited to go online to make your gift supporting the ministries of this church. You may do this at henriettaucc.org, scrolling down to the "Online Donation" button on the right hand side. Gifts may also be mailed to the church. We invite you as well to pick up the phone and reach out to someone who may be feeling alone and forgotten, or to let the pastors know of any special pastoral needs. In this difficult time, your support is more crucial than ever to our ministries of welcome and inclusion.

SONG OF PRAISE *(in unison)*

Praise God, who welcomes us with grace, who blesses every time and place, whose Christ shows every person's worth, whose Spirit gives us all new birth!

Words and Tune adapted from the Geneva Psalter (1551)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(Let us pray together. . .)*

Generous God, we offer you the fruits of our time, talents and resources in celebration of all that we have been given. We give you thanks for all that we have and ask a special blessing on the fruits we have given back to help meet the needs of your beloved community. May the gifts nourish and strengthen the community to grow spiritually, emotionally, and physically. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A WORD OF APPRECIATION

Joan Barnes, Church Moderator

SENDING HYMN

"Because You Live, O Christ"

Because you live, O Christ, the garden of the world has come to flower,
the shadows of the tomb are flooded with your resurrection power.
The stone has rolled away, and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter Day, for Jesus Christ has risen,
has risen, has risen, has ri---sen!

Because you live, O Christ, the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying,
our cages of despair no longer keep us closed and life-denying.
The stone has rolled away, and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter Day, for Jesus Christ has risen,
has risen, has risen, has ri---sen!

Because you live, O Christ, the rainbow of your peace will span creation,
the colors of your love will draw all humankind to adoration.
The stone has rolled away, and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter Day, for Jesus Christ has risen,
has risen, has risen, has ri---sen!

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, © 1987 Hope Publishing Company; Tune: David's Psalmen, 1685.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Martha

SENDING MUSIC

Robin Bower

***WE RETURN TO THE WORLD
RENEWED AND EMPOWERED BY GOD'S SPIRIT
As our worship ends, our service begins.***

+Today's Sermon title is from a reflection by Cheryl Lindsay in "Sermon Seed: Beloved, Be Loved, Be Love," April 22, 2021, <https://www.ucc.org/sermon-seed-beloved-be-loved-be-love/>.

**Today's Call to Worship is based on materials in "God Is the True Vine: 21st Century Worship Resources for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B," April 27, 2021, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/god-is-the-true-vine-21st-century-worship-resources-for-the-fifth-sunday-of>

*Portions of today's service are adapted from "Abiding in Love: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 2, 2021," <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-5-may-2/>

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