

Trinitarian Congregational Church
TakeOut
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 9, 2021

Bells <https://youtu.be/-6qZ9A6GFik>

Announcements

Prelude “His Eye Is on the Sparrow”
Charles H. Gabriel, Arr. Marilyn Ham
<https://youtu.be/pFqwdCJw-p4>

Call to Worship Sue McGowan
Rosemary Dawson

One: All who are born of God, join together in joy.
Let us joyfully sing to the One who does wonderful things.

All: God has revealed his power to save.

God has made known his triumph among all peoples.

One: Come now, let us make our home in the love of Christ.
Let our love find expression as we keep God’s commands.

All: We come with joy to the One who calls us friends.

We gather, eager to hear Christ’s word to us.

One: Remember God’s steadfast love and faithfulness.
Let our hands and voices proclaim God’s glory.

All: We will pour out hymns of praise with joy.

We will honor Christ by our compassionate service.

Hymn Womb of Life and Source of Being
<https://youtu.be/WxGoUsRIDFw> (tune only)

14 Womb of Life, and Source of Being

1. Womb of life, and source of be - ing, home of ev - 'ry
 2. Word in flesh, our bro - ther Je - sus, born to bring us
 3. Brood - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us; be our part - ner,
 4. Moth - er, Broth - er, ho - ly Part - ner; Fath - er, Spir - it,

rest - less heart, in your arms the worlds a - wak - ened; you have
 sec - ond birth, you have come to stand be - side us, know - ing
 be our friend. When our mem - 'ry fails, re - mind us whose we
 On - ly Son: we would praise your name for - ev - er, one - in -

loved us from the start. We, your chil - dren, gath - er
 weak - ness, know - ing earth. Priest who shares our hu - man
 are, what we in - tend. La - bor with us, aid the
 three, and three - in - one. We would share your life, your

'round you, at the ta - ble you pre - pare. Shar - ing sto - ries,
 strug - gles, Life of Life, and Death of Death, ris - en Christ, come
 birth - ing of the new world yet to be, free of ser - vant,
 pas - sion, share your word of world made new, ev - er sing - ing,

tears, and laugh - ter, we are nur - tured by your care.
 stand a - mong us, send the Spir - it by your breath.
 lord, and mas - ter, free for love and u - ni - ty.
 ev - er prais - ing, one with all, and one with you.

Gathering Prayer

Sue McGowan

Gracious God, we gather today in awe of your steadfast love and faithfulness. You have made us your children and anointed us with your Spirit. We long to experience the depth of your love and to live as your caring community. Help us in this hour to set aside the distractions and demands that keep us from attending to you. Help us to understand your word and keep your commands. Free us from our fears that we might risk our well-being for the sake of others. Empower us to live as true disciples and genuine friends of Jesus, for your glory and honor. Amen.

Gloria Patri

<https://youtu.be/OLz3R1hnUjs>

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, reign without end. Amen, amen.

Scripture

1 John 5:1-5 (NRSV)

Sue McGowan

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴ for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵ Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

John 15:9-17 (RSV)

Rosemary Dawson

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ This I command you, to love one another.

Musical Reflection

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Arr. Phillip Keveren.

<https://youtu.be/otrlo8c-j-Q>

Who loves you? Really. Who do you love? Take a minute and think about someone in your life whose love is palpable. (pause) Pretty powerful, isn't it? And if you're like me you are eager to spend time with your beloved, and to do those things that are appreciated by them.

Maybe, with that sense of our 'sweetie' we can begin to grasp Jesus' invitation today. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love." Jesus loves us with a crazy love and Christ wants us to experience that love, deeply and fully, until, as he said it bubbles up in joy – the joy he knows.

So it seems odd that right after inviting us into this love fest he says "if you keep my commandments you will abide in my love". That doesn't seem like much of a loving word. It smacks of "if you do what I want then I will love you." At least that's how we hear it, too often. But perhaps that is not Jesus' intention. God loves us, immensely and unfailingly, and love has a way of wanting the best for us. Just as a parent sets limits and house rules for the well-being of their children, God's commands are there for our welfare. But I am not talking about the Law of Israel, the 613 commands of the Old Testament. Jesus said encouraged us to keep his commandments, "just as I have kept my Father's commandments". Yet we know that Jesus often got in trouble for not keeping the Law. Jesus had a different set, a different view, of God's commands. And for Jesus those commands are always rooted in love – God's love for us and our love for God. To keep the commandments of Jesus, are in essence, to love in action. It is action rooted in love. That is the sole commandment of Jesus - Love one another.

Jesus' command is not about warm feelings. No one, not even God, can dictate feelings; but He can direct action – actions that seek the best for others. That is the hallmark Jesus set and that he himself fulfilled. "Greater love has no one than this - to lay down your life for your friends." That is just what Jesus did for us, whom he claimed, and claims, as his friends. He gave his life for us, fully and without reserve, on the cross. So often we interpret the cross as punishment for sin. Yet for Jesus, for John, and for all who know God's grace, it is the ultimate act of love.

That, my friends, is the plumbline Jesus has set for us – "love each other as I have loved you." Yikes! This is no easy 'buddy - buddy, good time pals'. This love, real love, is hard work. It always has been hard work and it always will be hard work. We know it's hard work because we know when we have failed to love. We fail, not just because it's hard, but because this love is not 'by your own boot-strap' love. This type of love, a 'lay down your life, give your all' love needs divine intervention. We need an unfailing source of love for us and with us, so that we can then share that love with others. This is why Jesus started off with the invitation "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love." Because like the vine and branches 'apart from me [apart from the God who is love] you can do nothing.'

It is when we chose to abide, dwell in and find nurture in the love of God, that we then blossom and bear the fruit that is love. And the abiding power of that love, in and through us, has the power to renew and transform us and the whole creation.

Amen.

Hymn

God Our Author and Creator
<https://youtu.be/X3RwRBpefOg>

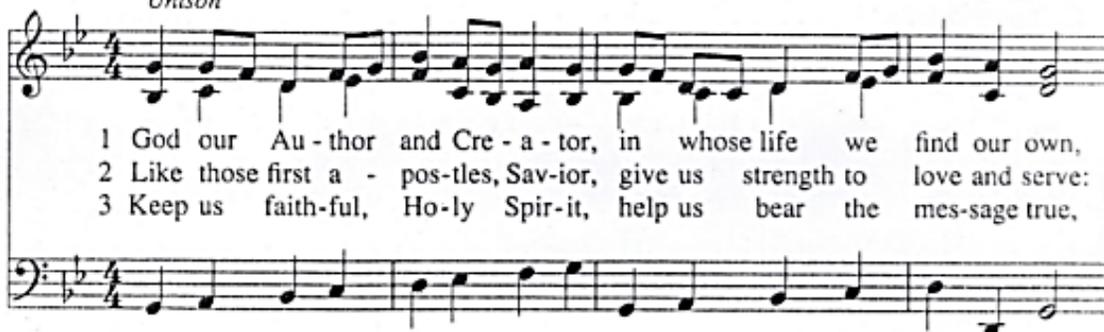
God Our Author and Creator

530

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1985

Gen. 1:1-2:3; Acts 17:22-31; Rom. 12:2; John 3:16-17

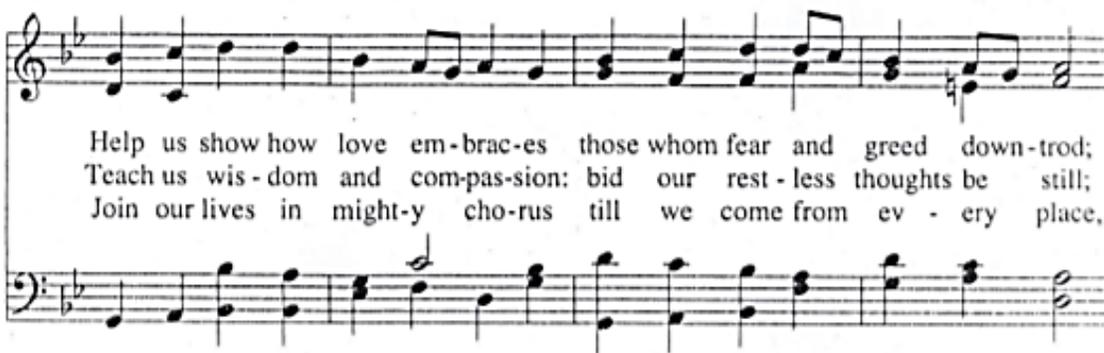
Unison



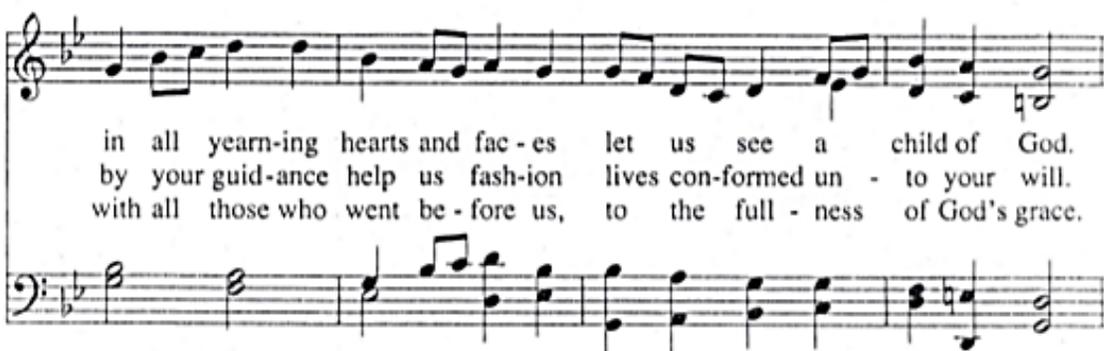
1 God our Au - thor and Cre - a - tor, in whose life we find our own,
2 Like those first a - pos-tles, Sav-ior, give us strength to love and serve:
3 Keep us faith-ful, Ho-ly Spir-it, help us bear the mes-sage true,



make our dai - ly wit - ness great-er, by our lives make your love known.
when our faint-ing spir - its wa-ver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve.
that at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."



Help us show how love em-brac-es those whom fear and greed down-trod;
Teach us wis-dom and com-pas-sion: bid our rest-less thoughts be still;
Join our lives in might-y cho-rus till we come from ev - ery place,



in all yearn-ing hearts and fac - es let us see a child of God.
by your guid-ance help us fash-ion lives con-formed un - to your will.
with all those who went be - fore us, to the full - ness of God's grace.

As you meet with God in prayer, please lift up the joys and concerns shared through the Trumpet Blast. God is eager to be your help and strength, to listen to you and meet your needs. Prayer is a gift we can always use. If you would like the church to pray for you please contact pastor Rosemary or Michele Lawler.

Prayers of the People

Gracious, Compassionate God, we are awed today by the profound depth of the love for us. The extent your love went for us in Christ leaves us humbled, and we turn to you with open hearts, longing to love you in return. We thank you for your Spirit, who answers the longing of our hearts with your abiding presence so that we may know the power of your love in our daily lives. And so we come before you today, wanting to be filled with a love that will bring life and joy to all the world.

We pray for your church, and for this congregation. Grant that the truth of your love may be both our foundation and our goal. Help us to grow in the experience of your love, and bear its fruit in our lives, so that we may love each other and all people, fully and truly.

We pray for our world and its leaders. Refresh their spirits in the knowledge of your love and guide them that they may achieve your loving purposes for all people. We also pray for all who are suffering this day. May the forsaken know your welcome, the forlorn receive your hope, and the distraught know your peace. Grant your healing to the ill, your comfort to the mourning and your aid to the needy. We especially thank you for... and we ask your continued aid for.... And may the love and favor we have received guide us as we carry your love to those in need.

We praise you, Wondrous God, for the abundance of your love in our lives, and for the ministry of love you give to us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord of Love, who taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer

Choral Response https://youtu.be/lAivVHv_mbc

Offering

We are people whom God has richly blessed in so many ways. In love, God has done great things for us- providing for our welfare, granting us forgiveness, and extending to us friendship in Jesus Christ. Our gifts are a reflection and a response to the One who has given us so much. Let us dedicate our offerings with joy.

Generous and loving God, we offer you our best with grateful, adoring hearts; and we commit our resources and labors to your service. Empower us as we work for the reign of your love and the good news of the gospel. Bless our offerings that they may bear fruit among us and throughout the world. Amen.

Doxology <https://youtu.be/5I7PEGUPAXQ>

(choose the one that is best for your faith)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below,
praise him above ye heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that Love has done; Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen

Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

<https://youtu.be/r2AVh40fSV4>

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

465

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down;
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry trou - bled breast;
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be:

fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown;
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest:
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, 'til in heav'n we take our place,

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 End of faith, as its Be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 'til we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Charles Wesley, 1747

BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Zundel, 1870; alt.

Common Commission

Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Benediction

Go now into the world

May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God
and the steadfastness of Christ. 2 Thes 3:5

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

Postlude

“Flower Song”

G. Lange, Op. 39.

<https://youtu.be/FwIgS-n4Ecg>

Music provided by Chris Harris and Lynne Walker