

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 24, 2020

**Designates - "Those who are able are asked to please stand."*

COMING BEFORE GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Peggy Stout

PASTOR'S DECLARATION

Rev. Peggy Stout

Let us gather as the people of God to worship our Creator, to share our prayers and our concerns, and to pledge ourselves to God's work in the world. May God bless us this day - so that, what we do in this time together may be honest, sacred, and filled with hope.

PRELUDE

Marty Light, Organist

OPENING PRAYER

Kathy Winters

We thank you, Father, that you have given us the privilege of declaring your goodness and mercy. Give to us full confidence that you hold us and the whole world in your hands. May your presence in this place and time challenge our spirits and encourage our hearts. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN "God of Grace & God of Glory" (vs 1, 2, & 4) #528 Blue Book
(Marty & Kathy)?

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Responsively*)

Rev. Peggy Stout

God of every nation, on this Memorial Day weekend, as we remember those that gave their lives for our sake, let us be stirred to action in their memory.

We confess that we have not done all that is possible to promote peace and justice in our world.

We have not loved our neighbors, let alone our enemies.

Forgive us for failing to live up to your commandments.

The ways of the world make it difficult to live our new life in Christ. We so easily cling to old habits.

Forgive our weakness, O Lord.

Give us strength through the power of the Holy Spirit to put on the clothing and character of your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ that we may be your representatives to the world. We ask all these things in the name of Christ, who taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***PRAISE RESPONSE** *“On Eagle’s Wings”*

And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings, Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the palm of my hand.

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Unison*)

Kathy Winters

O Lord, our God, your Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, that we may be obedient to your will and live for your glory. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 51:1-2, 10-13

Kathy Winters

PIANO MEDITATION

“I Need Thee Every Hour” (vs 1,2&4) Marty Light
#443 Blue Book

***NEW TESTAMENT READING**

Acts 11:1-18

Rev. Peggy Stout

SERMON

Rev. Peggy Stout

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*The Apostle's Creed*)

Kathy Winters

Let us confess the faith of our baptism:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Peggy Stout

***HYMN**

"Amazing Grace"

#107 Blue Book

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

Invitation

Rev. Peggy Stout

Offertory

***Doxology** *"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"*

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. Amen.

***Offertory Prayer**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"A Song of Peace"

Chancel Choir (May 26, 2019)

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION** (*Responsively*) Rev. Peggy Stout

People of God by grace, followers of Christ by choice, and partners of the Spirit by faith - go from this place of worship to walk humbly with God, to do justice, and to love mercy.

We will go in the name and love of God, by the grace of Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

Marty Light

Psalm 51:1-2, 10-13

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." ⁸ But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'