

**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
MAY 17, 2020**

**Designates "Those who are able 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, Pianist

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Peggy Stout

We draw near to you, O God-Source of all understanding, and ask you to draw near to us. Let your understanding flow through our lives like a stream. Teach us your wisdom from above, that we may bear good fruit in our lives. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN**

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!" (vs 1 & 4)

#323 Blue Book

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Responsively*)

Rev. Peggy Stout

Holy and Merciful God, we live our lives as best we can – dealing with difficult relationships and situations, putting failures and disappointments behind us, and moving into each day with as much energy, goodwill, and optimism as we can muster. But we seldom have the right answers and we seldom seek your higher wisdom in our lives. We just move ahead and hope things turn out okay.

Forgive us, O Lord, for not asking for your insight of goodness and peace.

Your word to us is the good news of Jesus Christ. Yet, too often our words to others are not good news. We use your gift of speech to boast about our accomplishments. We use our words to speak harshly and to put down others who are different.

Forgive us, O Lord. Help us to choose our words carefully and may our words be like fresh water from a stream that gives life, health, and joy. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS** (*Responsively*) Rev. Peggy Stout

Sisters and brothers, your sins are forgiven by the mercy of God and the blood of Christ. Rejoice and be glad, for God's mercy is great and brings healing and peace.

Thanks be to God!

***PRAISE RESPONSE** "Morning Has Broken" (vs 3) #5 Blue Book

***Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, Praise every morning,
God's recreation Of the new day!***

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Unison*) Kathy Winters

Eternal God, in the reading of the scripture, may your Word be heard, in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known, and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 139:1-4, 23-24 Kathy Winters

SPECIAL MUSIC (*vocal recording*) "Thy Word"
Soloists: Tera Rockett, Jayne & Shuford Abernethy

NEW TESTAMENT READING James 3:1-10 Rev. Peggy Stout

SERMON Rev. Peggy Stout

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PIANO MEDITATION

Marty Light

CALL TO PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Peggy Stout

The Lord's Prayer (*Unison*):

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.

*HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision" (vs 1 & 2)

#468 Blue Book

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

Invitation

Kathy Winters

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.

*Prayer

*HYMN

"Take My Life and Let it be Consecrated"

#458 Blue Book

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Peggy Stout

*POSTLUDE

Marty Light

Psalm 139:1-4, 23-24

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me. ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. ³ You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

James 3:1-10

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.