

TCC Takeout

An Order of Service for Worship at Home

***God's Extravagant Welcome:
"No matter who you are or where
you are on life's journey, YOU are
welcome here!"***



**Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2020**

Announcements:

From Ted Thornton

TCC Takeout is a liturgy for these times when we find ourselves without a settled pastor and apart from one another physically. The UCC has created a website of resources to supplement our worship and prayer during our struggle with coronavirus: [Click here](#)

Send announcements for the weekly Trumpet Blast and prayers for Joys and Concerns to me as soon as possible and no later than Tuesday noon for inclusion in the following Sunday's Order of Service. Printed copies of both this service and the Blast will be mailed or delivered to the doorsteps of members who do not use computers. Thanks for your prayers and support.

Many thanks to Patter and Heather for providing music for this service.

Prelude [Organ: Spring from The Four Seasons \(Violin Concerto in E major RV 269\) - Antonio Vivaldi](#)

Introit: [Pachelbel Canon in D, Orion Horns](#)

Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus said, I go and prepare a place for you, and I will come again.

People: We gather in this place to know your presence and your love, now and always.

Leader: Jesus said, I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

If you know me, you know God.

People: We pray to know you more deeply,

that we may know God more intimately, now and always.

Leader: Jesus said, Ask me for anything, and I will do it.

People: Help us to ask for the right things, Lord Jesus Christ, that we may fulfill your will, now and always.

Leader: Jesus said, Believe in me, and Follow me.

People: Help us to worship you fully believing and following – now and always!

Opening Hymn [Christ is Made the Sure Foundation](#)

1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever,
and her confidence alone.

hear thy people as they pray;
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls away.

2 To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of hosts, today:
with thy wonted loving-kindness

3 Praise and honor to the Father,
praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
One in might, and One in glory,
while unending ages run.

Gathering Prayer

Ever-gracious, Way-Making God,
we celebrate the gifts of your Spirit.

You have not fed us a diet of shame or shrinking,
but with the milk of your truth

you have made us strong and faithful servants of Christ.

You call us to take up the mantle of justice and to follow wherever faith leads us.

You fill us with strength and hope,

and you invite us to share in the cost and joys of discipleship.

You promise us splendor and beauty in this life and in the world to come.

Meet us here, we pray,

that your word will be fulfilled in our hearing

and that your Spirit will fill us with courage. Amen.

[Gloria Patri](#)

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,

World without end,

Amen, Amen

Special Music: [Father's House, Noel Paul Stookey](#)

Reading From Scripture [John 14:1-14](#)

“For the word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God Among Us, For the Word of God Within Us, Thanks Be to God”

Special Music: [There Are Many Room, Liam Newton](#)

Reflection: Ted

Jesus said (John 14:2), “In my Father’s house are many rooms.” This passage will be familiar to anyone who has attended more than one or two funerals. The first image to go through the minds of Jesus’ disciples as they listened to these words may have been the architecture of Jerusalem’s temple, a set of buildings they would have known well. Ringing the Temple’s sanctuary were many small rooms - cells really - where pious Jews could receive counseling and spiritual guidance from priests, somewhat akin to what Catholics experience when they enter the confession box.

We Christians take “many rooms” in the larger theological sense to mean that our eternal lives after this earthly one has run its course have been assured, underwritten, and promised by our Creator and affirmed in scripture by Jesus Christ. There is, in fact, room for each and every one of us in that house no matter who we are, no matter what we believe, and no matter what we’ve done in or with our lives. Never in God’s house are spoken the words Mary and Joseph heard that cold, winter Christmas Eve long ago in Bethlehem: “There is no room in the inn.” There’s a place for everyone in God’s house. No one is left out.

A. M. Hunter, in his book on the Gospel of John, writes, “Here in these beautiful words of Jesus lies the secret of the Christian's triumph over every mortal disaster. When things on earth have issued in their superlative worst; when even life itself ebbs and the soul contemplates that ultimate terminus in the grave, then let the worshiper lift his eyes to see the City Foursquare coming down out of heaven from God [a reference to Revelation 24:16].”

The rooms we build to live in here on earth are only temporary dwelling places. Death reminds us that there is no final dwelling or resting place in this world. Even the grave is seen to be a temporary dwelling place. As I said a couple of weeks ago in my reflection on the story of the road to Emmaus, we are a people on a journey. And, as we journey, we await entering the presence of God. Another beautiful word often used to describe this journey is “sojourn.” We are sojourning toward our final destination inside God’s “house.”

Our guarantee of a final resting place in those “rooms” in God’s house doesn’t mean we should just give up on the physical world we currently inhabit, that, for example, we should cease struggling against diseases like Covid-19, as some Christians seem wont to do. I don’t think God wants us to ignore science. Remember that the words of the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37) include the command to love God with all our minds as well as our hearts and souls. The mind is the realm of science. God gave us good minds and wants us to use them for the improvement of life on earth, including improvements in our health. Christians should do all in our power to honor, protect, support, and above all respect the efforts of scientists and those in the healing professions who work to preserve life. Our future in those “rooms” in God’s house is assured. Meanwhile, we’re meant to live our lives in this world working for the coming of

God's kingdom as fully and completely and healthfully as we can.

Hymn of Reflection [Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life · Ralph Vaughan Williams · George Herbert](#)

1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife;
Such a life as killeth death.

Such a feast as mends in length;
Such a strength as makes his guest.

2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a light as shows a feast;

3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a joy as none can move;
Such a love as none can part;
Such a heart as joys in love.

Poem: "In My Father's House," by Robert Freeman

In My Father's house there are many rooms" (John 14:2)

No, not cold beneath the grasses,
Nor close-walled -within the tomb;
Rather, in My Father's mansion,
Living in another room.

Just behind the hanging curtain,
Serving in another room.

Living, like the one who loves me,
Like yon child with cheeks abloom,
Out of sight, at desk or school book,
Busy in another room.

Shall I doubt my Father's mercy?
Shall I think of death as doom,
Or the stepping o'er the threshold
To a bigger, brighter room?

Nearer than the youth whom fortune
Beckons where the strange lands loom,

Shall I blame My Father's wisdom?
Shall I sit enswathed in gloom,
When I know my Love is happy
Waiting in the other room?

Joys and Concerns

Please keep Janet Abel in your prayers as she continues to recover from Covid-19 and as she and her family mourn the loss of her husband, Alan. All are long time good friends of this church.

Pastoral Prayer

[Ted: "The following passage - Luke 12:22-24, 29-31 (NRSV) - is the lectionary reading for April 29, the Feast Day of Catherine of Siena (1347-1380), whose meditations on the suffering of Jesus moved her to devote her life to working for the poor and the sick. I think it makes a very moving prayer for our own pandemic times."]

Let us pray.

Jesus said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well."

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life.

Oh God of peace who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, and in quietness and confidence shall be our strength. By the might of thy spirit, lift us we pray thee to thy presence where we may be still and know that thou art God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Intercessions

A Prayer for a Time of Coronavirus

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/03/02/coronavirus-prayer>

Hear O Lord, we pray, our petitions of intercession. We pray for the lonely, for the bereaved, for the sick, for the aged, for those who feel overwhelmed by personal problems. We ask, on their behalf, for the comfort of your presence.

We pray especially for those in need who are on our hearts and minds and lips this morning.

We pray for all who are ill or who suffer from any affliction: physical, mental, or spiritual.

Bring healing and comfort to them, their families, and to those who care for them and to others who love them.

Compassionate God, support and strengthen all those who reach out in love, concern, and prayer for the sick and the distressed. In their acts of compassion, may they know that they are your instruments. In their concerns and fears, may they know your peace. In their prayer, may they know your steadfast love. May they not grow weary or fainthearted for your mercy's sake. Bless and protect from harm all workers who risk their health and their lives in the service of others: first responders, police, doctors, nurses, and all others who work in the healing

professions.

We ask these things in the Name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Now praying together as Jesus taught us, we say,

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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

Prayer Response - NCH 769 - *Hear Our Prayer, O God* -- [Audio version](#)

Hear Our Prayer, O God,
Hear our prayer, O God,
Incline Thine ear to us,
And Grant us your peace.

Closing Hymn [God Moves In A Mysterious Way](#)

1 God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm

2 Deep in unsearchable mines
Of never failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs
And works His sovereign will

3 Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take
The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
In blessings on your head

4 Judge not the Lord by feeble sense
But trust Him for His grace
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face

5 His purposes will ripen fast
Unfolding every hour
The bud may have a bitter taste
But sweet will be the flower

6 Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain
God is His own interpreter
And He will make it plain

Choral Benediction: [Let my Love be Heard, Jake Runestad](#)

Ooh ooooh
 Angels where you soar
 Up to God's own light
 Take my own lost bird
 On your hearts tonight
 And as grief once more
 Mounts to heaven and sings
 Let my love be heard

Angels, where you soar
 Up to God's own light
 Take my own lost bird
 On your hearts tonight;
 And as grief once more
 Mounts to heaven and sings
 Let my love be heard...

Pastoral Benediction

Don't let your hearts be troubled.
 Trust in God, and in God's son, Jesus Christ,
 through whom we come to know God.
 And may the blessing of God,
 the grace of Jesus Christ,
 and the presence of the Holy Spirit
 go with you always.
 Amen.

Postlude:

[Carmel A-Cappella - Vivaldi - The four seasons - The spring](#)



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