

MAY 2nd, 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: We are gathered to worship God and learn to love one another.

People: By loving people we have seen, we are loving God who we have not seen.

Pastor: Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

People: We love because God first loved us. And anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Pastor: Let us worship the Lord.

#HYMN #26 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

God of love, we have come here to this time of worship to rediscover you in our lives. But where can we find you? When you seem so far away from us, remind us to reach within the fountain of loving feelings at the core of our being and there, let us find you. When you seem so unconcerned, so impassive to our concerns, remind us to reach out in love to the hand of a child or the face of a friend, and there, let us find you. And in times when we are unable to feel anything and there is no one to touch, let us never close our hearts to love, but always, let us be open to it so it can reveal your loving presence in our midst, today, tomorrow, and always, through our brothers and sisters in the world. We ask these things in the name of Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray this way, saying:

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (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, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 8:26-40 and 1 John 4:7-21

SERMON MESSAGE:

So Much Love

Rev. Gagnon

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests
 Silent Prayer
 Pastoral Prayer

BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Thank you, gracious God, for the privilege of giving. We have received many gifts from you; and we joyfully share our treasure as one way we can express our love for you. Bless today's offering and tomorrow's use of it with divine insight, Christian charity, and responsible stewardship. May this act of giving help reveal your love for us and the world. We pray that you will empower our gifts and help us utilize them so that they may benefit our sisters and brothers who are in physical, emotional and spiritual need. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Hymn of Preparation #410 *Just as I Am*

The Great Thanksgiving

Receiving the Bread and Cup

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

Lord, thank you for the nourishment you have given us through your sacred gift of the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Having partaken of the sacramental meal, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and strengthen us through this food from heaven. Enable us to serve you more faithfully and live more devotedly as citizens of your Kingdom, always guided by Jesus' way of sacrificial love. We ask this in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen.

HYMN #333 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: May the God who is love watch over us, give us courage, and keep us loving.

People: May the God who is love fill us with compassion to stand by those who need our help.

Pastor: May the God who is love bless us with people who love us and help us grow.

People: May the God who is love send us on our way rejoicing and welcome us safely home.

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL