

Service of Worship
Second Sunday of Easter

April 3, 2016

10:30 AM

Welcome to this service of Worship and Holy Communion.
The Lord's Table is open to all who come seeking the presence and peace of Christ. The cup contains unfermented juice, and we serve gluten-free bread.

*those who are able, please stand.

GATHER AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *At The Lamb's High Feast* Burkhardt

INTROIT *The Peace of the Earth*

THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When the doors were shut and the world was kept out,

All: resurrection found the disciples.

One: When the church gathers and engages the world in which we live,

All: resurrection finds us.

One: When fear grew and new questions were asked,

All: resurrection found the disciples.

One: When Christ gathers with his followers in living worship,

All: resurrection finds us.

One: Let us worship the resurrected Christ!

***HYMN # 575** (vs 1) *Come and Find the Quiet Center*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *The Peace of the Earth*
(*Congregation sings. . .*)

**The peace of the earth be with you,
the peace of the heavens too;
the peace of the rivers be with you,
the peace of the oceans too.**

**Deep peace falling over you;
God's peace growing in you. (Repeat)**

One When we are locked
into patterns of anxious behavior
and diminished by lack of affirmation and care,
we open ourselves to you, O God,
seeking a word of acceptance,
longing for a touch
that would heal and set us free.

**Deep peace falling over you;
God's peace growing in you. (Repeat)**

One: When we are withered
by the scorching winds of memory
and folded into ourselves by deep hurt,
we open ourselves to you, O Christ,
seeking a strong breath of peace,
longing for an embrace
that would heal and set us free.

**Deep peace falling over you;
God's peace growing in you. (Repeat)**

One: When we are dispirited by talk of inability and frightened by what others may think, we open ourselves to you, O Spirit, seeking a fresh wind of courage and grace, longing for expressions that would heal and set us free.

**Deep peace falling over you;
God's peace growing in you. (Repeat)**

***WORDS OF GOD'S ENDURING LOVE**

One: Christ comes into every shadowed corner of our lives with the light of Easter. Christ comes into the locked rooms of our faults, and gifts us with grace and hope. Christ comes to fill us with peace, that we may proclaim the good news of mercy and forgiveness.

All: Christ comes to us. Thanks be to God!

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *tune: TALLIS' CANON*

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy,
with justice, love, and praise.**

LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

The New Testament	Acts 5:27-32	NY pg. 123
The Gospel	John 20:19-31	NT pg. 115

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

(Children through second grade may go to the nursery.)

SERMON

STATEMENT OF FAITH

- I do not believe God wills hunger and poverty for the planet's children.
- I do not believe God organizes the death of anyone, young or old.
- I do not believe God hates our questions and detests our doubts.
- I do not believe God wishes us to accept everything without debate.
- I do not believe God likes the status quo that denies people liberty and freedom.
- I do not believe God is silent in the councils of government.
- I do not believe God approves what we have done to religion.
- I do not believe God speaks only through words.
- I do not believe God can be understood only through the interpretation of scholars.
- I do not believe God is limited by human description.

- I do believe God loves us.
- I do believe God loves us so much that death was crushed, and life began anew.
- I believe what I can grasp, and hold, and touch, and also what I cannot grasp but know deep within.
- I have not seen the empty tomb but I believe in the Risen Christ.
- I believe. God, help my unbelief.

- Amen.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

OFFERING

Invitation

Choral Anthem

Rain Down

Composed by Jaime Cortez. Arranged by John Carter

***Doxology** (*page 48 in hymnal*) *tune: TALLIS' CANON*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

One God triune, whom we adore. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication** (*let us pray together . . .*)

Bread of Life, we offer these gifts in gratitude for your providing us with a feast of life. Receive our gifts that the hungry of the world may be fed and the lonely welcomed to your table. Amen.

***HYMN # 575** (vs 2) *Come and Find the Quiet Center*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

One: Healing God,
we come before you
broken, yet seeking wholeness,
isolated, yet seeking community,
overwhelmed, yet seeking simplicity,
shamed, yet seeking grace:

All: God, we yearn for the healing you promise.

One: God of Justice, we come before you selfish,
yet seeking a generous heart,
arrogant, yet seeking humility,
responsible for injustices, yet seeking forgiveness:

All: God, we yearn for the justice you promise.

One: God of Peace, we come before you
afraid, yet seeking assurance,
agitated, yet seeking serenity,
angry, yet seeking a forgiving heart:

All: God, we yearn for the peace you promise.

One: Knowing that through Christ
all things are made new,
we come to this communion table
to be recreated through the bread and cup,
and to be renewed in our faith and commitment.

All: God, we submit ourselves to renewal through you.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *with the Lord's Prayer*

BREAKING THE BREAD & POURING THE CUP

One: God, may this bread connect us more with you and
our neighbors near and far.

All: Bless this bread, we pray.

One: May this cup remind us of the inter-connectedness of
people around the world.

**All: Bless this cup, we pray. May this simple meal
bring us into union with you, your people and
your world united in the One Body of Christ.**

The Lord's Prayer *(in 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.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

(You are invited to come forward, take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, eat and return to your seat. The elements can be brought to you if you wish. All are welcome!)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(Let us pray together.)*

Loving and gracious God, thank you for this holy meal and for the all inclusive love of Jesus Christ. Help us to be his faithful disciples so that our love will be your love reaching out into the life of the world. Amen.

GOD'S PEOPLE DEPART TO SERVE

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

(You are invited to share a sign of peace with others.)

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

*HYMN # 575 (vs 3) *Come and Find the Quiet Center*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* Bender

The Peace of the Earth

The musical score for "The Peace of the Earth" is written in 4/4 time and consists of 14 measures. It features a piano accompaniment with chords and a vocal line with lyrics. The lyrics are: "The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the heav-ens too; the peace of the riv - ers be with you, the peace of the o - ceans too. Deep peace, deep peace fall - ing o - ver you; God's peace, deep peace fall - ing o - ver you; God's peace, God's peace grow - ing in you. peace, God's peace grow - ing in you." The score includes chord markings: Am, Fmaj7, G, Esus, E, Am, Fmaj7, G, Esus, E, Am, G, Am, Em7, Am, G, Am, Em7, Am. The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

(Trans: Christine Carson, music: Guatemalan traditional, arr: John L. Bell © 1998 Christine Carson & WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland. GIA Publications, Inc., All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License # A-713031).

Worship Service
Participants

Ushers and Greeters

Russ and Terry Pedersen
Carl and Connie Applegate

Worship Leaders

Kathy McKenna

Liturgists

Barb and Peter Wright

Acolytes

John Gumaer
Kenian Ulrich

Nursery Volunteers

Cindy Stout
Heather O'Hara

Coffee Hour

the Gumaer family

Attendance

March 27 - 103

Our giving 3/27/16:
Operations - \$1,137.50
Missions - \$292.00

Year-to-date income and expense totals can be found in next month's newsletter.

Life in the Parish
Week of April 3

SUNDAY – April 3

10:30 am – Worship service
11:45 am – FRS and HCC Special Meeting
12:00 pm – Snack and Chat
12:00 pm – Youth Group pizza and Games Tournament
12:30 pm – VBS/Chautauqua Planning group meets
2:00 pm – Worship at Brewster House

MONDAY – April 4

7:30 pm – Al-Anon meets

TUESDAY – April 5

2:00 pm – Bridge group
7:00 pm – Homer Brass rehearsal

WEDNESDAY – April 6

7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY – April 7

Kathleen one day Continuing Ed
12:00 pm – Bible Study Group

SATURDAY – April 9

8:30 pm -4:00 pm – Stephen Ministry team meets

SUNDAY – April 10

9:15 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Worship service

NOTES AND NOTICES

Today we will celebrate Holy Communion with participation of all members of our faith community including our young children. Using the example of Jesus' appearance to the early disciples, Pastor Kathleen will reflect on how fear can prevent a generous sharing of human love. The alternative is to receive God's peace. Scripture: John 20:19-31.

There will be a **Special Meeting** of the First Religious Society and the Homer Congregational UCC immediately following worship **today**. The purpose of the meeting is: to vote on the proposed slate of members of the Pastor Search Committee; to elect a treasurer for the Homer Congregational Church (Andrea Herzog); to elect an auditor for the Endowment Fund (Nancy Richards). The names presented for election to the Pastor Search Committee are:

Bev Berry	Tracy Bertram	Miles Dudgeon
Chuck Feiszli	Dorothy Hopkins	Kathy McKenna
Lori Schmidt	Jim Ulrich	

Alternates: Barb Wright and Kevin Cappy

The Senior High Sunday School class is hoping we can help support the HEBREWS #Feed thepeople **Coffee House**, scheduled for Saturday, April 30. There is wish list sign-up sheet in the Russell Fellowship Room for needed items and supplies, if you can help.

The **Senior Fellowship Club** will be meeting on **Tuesday, April 12th** at **2:00 pm**. Dottie Kelley will be presenting a program about our National Parks, how they are being endangered and what is being done about this problem.

Next Sunday **the Reverend Craig French** will be our preacher as Pastor Kathleen will be participating in her grandson's baptism in Syracuse. Craig is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church where he served congregations in Buffalo and Syracuse. He recently retired from the University United Methodist Church in Syracuse.

Plan to join others at HCC on April 23 9:00 PM – 4:00 PM for **“Sacred Conversations on Racism”** as part of the Susquehanna Association Meeting. See newsletter for more details.