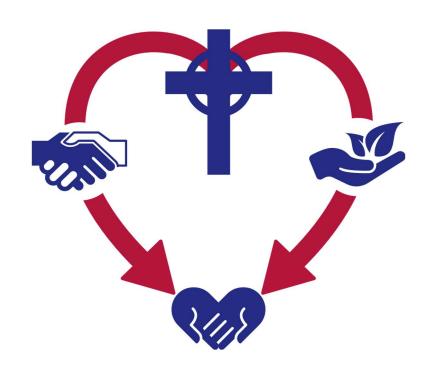
We are imperfect believers, passionate about sharing the love of Christ:

by Connecting, Growing, and Serving.



A Service of Worship for the Lord's Day Third Sunday of Easter Sacrament of Holy Communion April 14, 2024

Welcome! If you are visiting, please use the QR code on the visitor card found in the pew rack to share your information online or fill out the back of the card and drop it in the offering plate. Prayer cards are also available, and we invite you to list your concerns and place them in the offering plate as well.



We Gather to Worship God

*Congregation stands as noted

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord hears us when we call: **People: Come, let us put our trust in God.** Leader: The Lord fills our hearts with gladness:

People: Come, let us sing God's praises with shouts of joy!

Leader: The Lord grants peace to our weary souls:

People: Come, let us rest by the quiet waters of God's grace.

All: Let us worship God!

Invocation

*Opening Hymn #634

"To God Be the Glory"

We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek Reconciliation with God

Preparing Our Hearts for Confession - "Confession" Words/Music by Kenneth Jones (front cover of hymnal)

Lord, I come before you, asking your forgiveness. I am broken, I have faltered. I have turned from you. Create in me a new heart. Fill me with your love. Grant that I receive your grace, I pray. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Risen Christ, we are often troubled by our doubts, but you are not troubled by them. You do not require perfect understanding. Instead, you reveal yourself to us again and again so that we might come to know you. Forgive us when our doubts keep us stuck and when fear prevents us from loving all creation as you call us to do. Help us to accept the peace you so graciously offer to us. Have mercy on us when we hoard or hide that peace and when we fail to offer it to others. Renew us and guide us so that in this world of strife we may be bearers of your peace. Trusting in your promises, we pray. Amen.

Time of Silent Reflection and Personal Prayer of Confession

Leader: And all the people of Christ say,

People: Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are." Children of God, we are claimed by God, forgiven of our sins, and set free for love. Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God!

*Thanks for God's Forgiveness (#647; no repeats)

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" Give Thanks! Give Thanks!

*Passing of the Peace

Leader: Grace to you, and peace from God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(*remain standing)

*Transition Hymn #59

"The Steadfast Love of the Lord"

We Respond to God's Faithfulness in Our Life

Offering Our Lives to Jesus through Our Time, Gifts, and Resources (see the 'Giving' card in the pew rack for information about options for digital giving)

*Doxology (#606)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

God's Word Is Read and Proclaimed

Scripture Reading Psalm 4

Time for Young Disciples

(Children that have not yet finished 1st Grade are dismissed following this time)

Special Music "If Ye Love Me" Chancel Choir

Peter Neidmann

Scripture Reading 1 John 3:1-3, 11, 16-18

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Proclamation of God's Word Rev. Preston Shealy

"Living As God's Children"

Time of Meditation, Reflection

*Affirmation of Faith (from Romans 8)

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Responding to God's Word

*Hymn of Preparation for Communion #537

"When at this Table"

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Preparing Our Hearts for Prayer (#471)

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

Sending Out Into the World

*Sending Hymn #757

"Today We Are Called to Be Disciples"

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Benediction #246 (v.1)

"Christ Is Alive!"

*Postlude

Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We hope you were blessed so you can go and be a witness to Christ's love in the world. May your spirits be renewed for the days ahead.



Rev. Preston Shealy, Bridge Interim Pastor Kenneth Jones, Director of Music Millie Shiflett, Accompanist Sandee Cribbs, Lay Leader



^{*}Responsive Hymn