

The Season of Easter



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“Love God, Serve Neighbor”

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Annette Nolan

Call to Worship

L: Dear Lord, help me to expect miracles.
Help me to get past the borders of my eyes,
the roadblocks of my mind,
the narrow door of my heart.
May my soul embrace the mystery of your magnificent love!
May my heart rejoice over the unexpected and undefined!
May my mind and body sigh with the sheer awe of it all. Amen.

Confession & Forgiveness

L: Let us open our hearts and minds to the truth of our lives, and let us offer that truth to God.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Forgive us, O God, when we limit you –
When we remake you in our image,
When we claim our causes as your own,
When we box you in,
And explain you away,
And in our attempts at understanding, whittle away all mystery.
Forgive us for our human impulses, and change us:
Awaken us to your blinding glory,
Confound us by your love,
Shower us with grace so that we will be made new,
Recreated in your image,
Grateful for all that we cannot know.
In the name of Christ, who brought us closer to you, we pray. Amen.

L: Friends, hear the Good News: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus to us, not to condemn the world but in order that we might be saved – healed and forgiven – through him. Thanks be to God! **Alleluia! Amen.**

Easter Greeting

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen . . . Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer of the Day

L: God, you are the source of all creation,
maker of the world and everything in it,
and yet you are never far from each one of us.
We live because of you.
We hope because of you.
In the name of Jesus Christ in whom we live,
and the Spirit of Truth who abides in us,
Amen.

The First Reading

Acts 17:22-31

Gospel Acclamation

“Word of God Speak”

The Holy Gospel

John 14:15-21

The Message

Song of the Day

Prayers of the Faithful

L: Abiding God, we pray for the church gathered today, both here and around the world, that we might be a people, who live as reflection of the vastness of your love. May our doors always be open in welcome, may our love be shared with all people,
and may our worship be inclusive.
For all this, and more,
Hear our prayer.

L: Abiding God, we give you thanks for all your gifts to us—
for daily food, for health, for each breath we take,
for freedom to choose,
and for the gifts of your word, your power and your love.
Our hearts are truly overwhelmed,
when we consider how you have entrusted so much to us.
May we be worthy of that trust—
may we be a people who are unafraid to live
as fully and as richly as you want us to live.
For all this, and more,

Hear our prayer.

L: Abiding God, we know that you are concerned with every aspect of our lives,
and so we ask that you would guide those who are lost and those who filled
with worry and fear. Protect those who are in harm's way, heal those who are
ill, and mend those who are broken, as only your love can.
For all these people, and the concerns known only by you,

Hear our prayer.

L: Abiding God, make your presence known to all healthcare professionals and
relief workers, especially those who find themselves on the frontlines to bring
healing, comfort and care to all impacted by the coronavirus. Strengthen,
encourage, and empower us to be people of peace in the midst of anxiety,
impatience, worry, dread, and a hunger for life to be normal again. May we be
people who embody of a spirit of camaraderie, generosity, and faithful
confidence.

For all these people, and all our hopes and concerns,

Hear our prayer.

L: Abiding God, you have not left us orphaned, but have given us the gift of the
Spirit – who is our Advocate, our Comforter, our Helper, and our Counselor –
who has made a home within us forever. Let us be those who share this good
news with the world around filled with many who feel lost, lonely, abandoned,
and orphaned. In name of Jesus Christ, and filled with fullness of the Spirit, we
pray. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (Sung by Rob Beyersdorf)

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

Benediction

L: Wherever we are, we are in God.
Wherever we are, we are in Christ, and Christ is in us.
Wherever we are, the Spirit abides with us and in us.
We go forth in peace and hope, upheld by God in every way.
Let us go forth in faithfulness and trust.
May all see the Divine in and through us.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sending Song

Call to Worship written by Leonard Sweet (posted on Preach the Story)

Confession & Forgiveness from holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/