

POTWIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Topeka, Kansas

Sunday May 12, 2024

7th Sunday of Eastertide

Liturgical color: white

PRELUDE

CHIMES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: God rules over all creation—let the earth rejoice!

Unison: The heavens proclaim God’s righteousness, and all the people behold God’s glory!

Leader: For you O God are more high over all the earth. You are exalted above all else!

Unison: Let us rejoice in the Lord and give thanks to God’s Holy Name, this day and forever!

***INVOCATION/OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**

O God, let us consider Jesus, who prayed for his disciples and sent them out into the world to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. By your Holy Spirit, hold us together in unity so that as we gather together, we may always be at one with Christ in faith, love and service. In Christ’s name we ask it, Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: “God is Here!”**

(#461 Blue Hymnal)

Praise, Prayers, and Petitions

SILENT PRAYERS OF PERSONAL CONFESSION:

CORPORATE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION:

Holy Creator,

You made us to enjoy open fellowship both with yourself and one another. As the Creator, Redeemer, and Spirit are one, so are we to live together in perfect unity. But we have rebelled against your authority and have turned against one another. Instead of connections, we create divisions. In your mercy, forgive us. Enable us to walk rightly before you in loving unity with one another, fulfilling your good and holy purpose for us, to your glory. In Christ’s name we ask it, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: As God has forgiven us so let us forgive one another. The Peace of Christ be with you!

Unison: And also with you!

Leader: Please share the love and peace of Christ with each other as you feel comfortable.

PASSING OF THE PEACE:

HYMN: “In Christ There Is No East or West” (#439 Blue Hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

(pg 16 in the Hymnal, Traditional version)

***Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri) #577**

The Word:

PASTORAL PRAYER

Illumination (Sung x2)

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my heart

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 98:1-9

NEW TESTAMENT READING: John 15:9-17

MESSAGE: “Just Love One Another!” *Pastor Sue Ann Seel*

Response to the Word

STATEMENT OF FAITH:

We believe:

- that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people
- that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;
- that God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry
- that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind
- that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly

- that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering
- that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream
- that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged
- that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

-Excerpt from the Confession of Belhar

The Belhar Confession has its roots in the struggle against apartheid in southern Africa. Belhar's theological confrontation of the sin of racism has made possible reconciliation among Reformed churches in southern Africa and has aided the process of reconciliation within the nation of South Africa.

Belhar's relevance is not confined to southern Africa. It addresses three key issues of concern to all churches: unity of the church and unity among all people, reconciliation within church and society, and God's justice. It was incorporated into the Book of Confessions of the PCUSA in 2016.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY:

Gwen Jones

DOXOLOGY:

"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" (#592 Blue Hymnal)

***OFFERING RESPONSE: Blessed be God forever.**

***CLOSING HYMN: "Song of Hope"**

432 (Blue Hymnal)

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:**

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Let there be peace on earth

And let it begin with me

Let there be peace on earth

The peace that was meant to be

With God as our Father
Siblings all are we
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony
Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me