



# Order of Worship

Sixth Sunday of Easter

**May 22, 2022**

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## **Call to worship**

Jesus offers us peace,  
So that we will not be afraid.

The Holy Spirit reminds us,  
we are never alone.

God makes a home among us,  
because God loves us.  
Let us worship the Triune God.

## **Call to confession**

Try as we might to stop sinning, we fail more often than succeed. But God's grace never fails, and God never stops giving us another chance to try. Let us now try again, as we confess our sins together in prayer.

## **Prayer of confession**

Grace giving God, you ask us to love and to keep your word. Simple instructions. Yet, even with the Advocate to help us, we still fail at loving and following faithfully. Every time we fail, speak to us again of your truths. Keep telling us over and over again, so that one day soon, we hear your words and believe. Amen.

## **Assurance of pardon** *(John 14:27)*

Christ says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."  
There is peace in God's forgiveness.  
Know that you are forgiven,  
know that you are loved,  
and be at peace.  
Amen.



## **Prayer for illumination**

God, author of our lives, as we listen now to the words of your story in scripture, we ask that you might continue your story in us. As we listen, guide our understanding. And as we understand, guide our lives as we seek to respond in faith. Amen.

## **Scripture readings**

### **Sermon**

#### **Affirmation of faith** *(from the Iona Community)*

We believe in God above us,  
maker and sustainer of all life.

We believe in God beside us,  
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.  
He descended into the earth  
to the place of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven  
to be everywhere present,  
and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us,  
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the church,  
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.

## **Call for the offering**

Christ gives us his word, his peace and his love. In response to all that we have been given through Christ, let us share our gifts joyfully and generously.

## **Prayer of dedication**

God of generosity, we are grateful you do not give as the world gives. Instead, you give unconditionally and abundantly. As we offer our time, talent, and treasure, we ask that you might transform our efforts so that our giving might come to be more and more like yours. Amen.



## **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer:**

Ever present God, on this sixth Sunday of Easter we still marvel at what you have done through Jesus Christ. Even as Jesus prepares to depart the presence of the disciples, he makes arrangements for them, and for us, to be cared for, encouraged and to be reminded of his love for us.

We hear Jesus' words to us today, telling us not to let our hearts be troubled and not to be afraid, but even as these words fall from our lips, we still find ourselves troubled and afraid. We are troubled by the war in Ukraine,

and afraid that the violence there will last much longer than anyone anticipated.

We are troubled by the division in our own nation

and afraid that the torn fabric of our tapestry may never be mended.

We are troubled by the many ways injustice makes its presence known in the world

and afraid that it will try to stay permanently.

We are troubled by the aches and pains of illness in our bodies

and afraid that we may never again feel like ourselves again.

We are troubled by grief that plants itself in our hearts

and afraid that even long after the loss it will still be there growing larger.

Holy Comforter, amid all that troubles us and makes us afraid, remind us of your peace. A peace that surpasses all our understanding. A peace that makes its home in the violence, division, injustice, illness and grief of the world so that one day peace will not need to be made any longer, it will just be.

We ask all of these things in the name of the Risen Lord, who taught us to pray together saying, **"Our Father..."**



## **Charge and benediction**

Even as Jesus departs, he promises that we will never be alone. Therefore, we can go out in confidence to love and serve the Lord.

And as you go,  
May the love of God,  
The peace of the Risen Christ,  
And the presence of the Holy Spirit  
Guide you and keep you, this day, and every day.  
Alleluia, Amen.

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