

**Sunday May 16, 2021
Completing Joy**

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: We come and seek the ways of wisdom.

People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **We come as one Body in Christ.**

Leader: We come to find peace and sing songs of love.

People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **We come to be refreshed by the Spirit.**

Unison: *(Out loud, but muted)* **We will open our hearts and worship our God together.**

Opening Prayer **Unison** *(Out loud, but muted)*

**Life-giving God, your love and light
Guide us on the path of
courage, compassion, generosity, and grace.
Lead us we seek to follow your transformative love
that turns sorrow into joy, and despair into hope.
O God, help us embrace your guiding love that
calls us to live as your faithful witnesses,
who reflect your grace and redemptive love.
God, open hearts to receive your gracious love,
and strengthen us
to carry the Good News of your healing power
found in the light, love and life of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Hymn # 542: Born of God, Eternal Savior
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

- 1) Born of God, Eternal Savior, source of life, of truth and grace,
Human One, whose birth incarnate hallows all our human race,
Come again, in all your glory, come to us, inspire and lead;
Fill us with your loving kindness; heal our wrongs, and help our need.

- 2) Christ, as you have lived for others, so may we for others live;
Freely have your gifts been granted, freely may your servants give.
All the wealth that we may gather is for use in causes just.
We are stewards of the bounty loaned to us in solemn trust.
- 3) Come, O Christ, and reign among us, granting love and joy and peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion, bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling, by your silent ours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst for pleasure, shame our selfish greed for gain.
- 4) See the Christ-like host advancing, high and lowly, great and small,
Linked in bonds of common service, answering the Savior's call.
Jesus Christ, we hear your pleading that your people should be one.
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition: here on earth, your will be done.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess our doubts that stifle our joy.

**Forgive us when we lack faith in you,
and comfort us when our fears outweigh our praise.
God, forgive us when we fail to trust you,
and help us when we do not live as your faithful witnesses.
Guiding God, forgive us when we are self-consumed
and lack the time needed to serve our neighbors.
In these times, have mercy on us, O God,
and encourage us to be your love,
by renewing us daily in your strength to care. We pray, Amen.**

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

O God, hear our prayers of confession and forgiveness,
and guide us from disbelief and distress
by leading us into your hope-filled joy.
God, we need your loving Spirit
to be among us, to comfort us in our doubt,
and to strengthen us in our faith. Amen.

Passing of the Peace (unmute for Passing of the Peace)

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you
People: **And also with you!**

Reading

Carol Griffith

Psalm 1: excerpts (NIV)

- ¹ Blessed is the one ...
² whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.

John 5: excerpts (NIV)

- ⁹ We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.
¹⁰ Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony....
¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Special Music

Ken Littlefield

Gospel Reading

John 17:6-19 (NIV)

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

- ⁶ "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. ¹³ "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Musical Interlude

Sermon: Completing Joy

Music for Meditation

Prayers of the People (unmute yourself to offer a request, giving first names only, please)

Hymn #508 Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire (verses 1 and 5)

(sung muted but together)

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, unuttered or expressed;
The motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast.
O Christ, by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way,
The path of prayer you too have trod: Christ, teach us how to pray.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer **Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

Offering Invitation

Today, we hear Jesus pray for the disciples to be guided by God. As we present our gifts to God may we be feeling the guidance and presence of our Sacred Source. As we give, Holy God, open us to the needs and challenges of our times in love.

Offering and Dedication **Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

Dear God,

We offer our generous gifts as a sign of our gratitude
for creating us to care for one another.
We pray your blessings upon these gifts, and
hope they serve as our love for you and the world.
Redeeming God, we ask that these gracious offerings
be a witness your healing and faithful love
in order to bring hope to a hurting world.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Benediction **Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

Let us go forth in the world, giving thanks that we have come.

Let us go forth renewed in spirit, knowing that we belong to God.

And, let us go forth as witnesses, carrying the light of Jesus Christ. Amen.