

Worship Service - *“Be Not Afraid”*

Easter 6, Year C,

22nd May, 2022

Psalm 67 NRSV / John 14:23-29 NSRV

Prelude

Gospel Opening (Video) [*Siyahamba \(We Are Marching in the Light of God\)*](#)

Symphony Of Human Rights

Posted to YouTube by Andreas Schmidt-Hartmann.

More info at: <http://symphony-of-human-rights.com/>

Welcome Guests / Announcements

We're glad to welcome you to worship this morning! This morning we are blessed to have a guest preacher, the esteemed John Russell, a long time member who lives in the lovely community of Stanwood. We're grateful for his service this morning. Do we have any announcements to lift up....then let's share the joy and peace of Christ with each other.

Pass the Peace

Let's stand as we're able and join in our first hymn, Holy Spirit, Come with Power, number 26.

Hymn *Holy Spirit, Come With Power* 26

Join with me in the responsive call to worship in your bulletin and on the screen.

Call to Worship [responsive]

One: Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven has drawn near."

All: God is here, with us now.

One: Jesus said, "I will come and make my home with those who love me."

All: God is here, with us now.

One: Jesus said, "The Holy Spirit will come, and teach you, and remind you."

All: God is here, with us now.

One: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

All: God is here, with us now. We join our hearts in worship, knowing God's presence is with us always.

Invocation

Join with me in our opening prayer

Come, Lamb of God, light our path as we gather today. Open the gates of our minds and our hearts that your word may penetrate to the depth of our being. Lead us to the river of the water of life And refresh us for the work you have set for us. Sit us down under the tree of life And let us rejoice in the diversity of its fruit and witness to the healing of nations. Show us your glory, Sovereign One as we come to worship you. Amen.

Scripture Reading – Psalm 67 NRSV

Our first scripture reading is from the Psalms this morning, with some phrases we may find familiar from many a benediction. Hear these words from the Psalmist.

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, *Selah* that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. *Selah*

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Our second hymn is God of grace and God of Glory, number 366. You may remain seated as we sing this one.

Hymn *God of Grace and God of Glory* **366**

A Time of Prayer

Joys and Concerns

This is our time to share joys, concerns, and lift them to God together in prayer. What do we have to share this week?

Pastoral Prayer

Let's quiet our hearts and minds, and join together in prayer.

Living God, Maker of heaven and earth, we come into your presence and we know ourselves to be recipients of great and wonderful gifts —the earth, the sky, the waters — given to us here in such abundance and beauty. We lead enormously privileged lives. Don't let our comfort blind us to the newness you are making in our midst — a newness that is taking us in directions we would not choose on our own; a newness that moves our safe horizons out beyond what we can control.

Help us to work with you in this ever-changing world, Being the change you seek in this world.

God of new possibilities, we give thanks for your constant reminder that you have a vision for our world that far exceeds our present realities.

You call us up out of our cynicism, apathy and fear to keep our eyes on the life you would have us live.

We are grateful for the courage and determination you make available to us to sustain our efforts to work for better relationships, justice and peace. Help us to find the language and the courage to share our own faith stories with each other, and to be open and honest and humble in all of our interactions.

This much does not change: You are our God; we are your people, bound to you by the love of Jesus Christ and by the call of your Holy Spirit. Faithful God, hold us deep in that truth even as you move us into your new creation.

Creating and re-creating God, take us in our uncertainties and make us new. We pray in the name of your Son, who has gone ahead of us into your new future and who beckons us to follow. Amen.

Gospel Reading

John 14:23-29 NSRV

Our gospel lesson this morning is continuing our recent exploration of John's gospel. Hear these words from the Apostle.

Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you.

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

Message ***“Be Not Afraid”***

John Russell, Guest Preacher

A Call to Serve

We look around at the bounty of God’s creation and give thanks.
All that we have and all that we are is a gift from the author of generosity.
May we be as generous, that the work of this ministry will be a blessing to others.

As we listen to the following interlude played by Annie, let’s reflect what actions we can take this week to truly bless others we encounter.

A Time for Reflection - *Musical Interlude*

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Join with me in a prayer of thanksgiving

We come before you again to ask a blessing, God of Grace, not only on seed and soil but on our tithes and offerings. Bless and multiply these gifts that your abundance might be recognized in this place and beyond its gate. May the fruits of our labors strengthen your church and truly be for the healing of the nations. Amen.

Now let’s rise as we join in our final hymn, *For the Healing of the Nations*, number 367

Hymn ***For the Healing of the Nations* 367**

BENEDICTION

Hear the words of Jesus:

If you love me, then listen to my voice and do what I say. And I and my Father will draw close to you, and will make our home within you. I am leaving you with a gift—a gift the world cannot give: peace of heart and mind. So do not let your heart be troubled or afraid. Go from here to love and serve the Lord, confident in the peace that Christ offers to each one of us.