



May 5, 2024

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m.

The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church

72 West Franklin Street

Bellbrook, Ohio 45305

937-848-2378

www.bellbrookpc.com

Our mission: Embracing the Community with God's Love, Providing a Home for Spiritual Nurture & Worship, Reaching Out to Those in Need, Growing through Service to Others

For we are confident of this very thing, that You God who began a good work in us will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus and that our love may abound more and more in real knowledge and all discernments through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The *Prelude* offers time for us to focus on preparing our hearts and minds for worship – God is here; we need to bring ourselves to worship as God already has.

The *light of the candles* symbolizes the presence of God and Jesus as light of the world.

We Gather

The Life of the Church

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

One: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

All: We welcome the light of Christ into our worship.

Sung Prayer of Preparation

"Christ is Alive!"

Purple #246 v. 1

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

The *Call to Worship* invites us to begin worshipping God.

* Indicates please rise in body or spirit

***Call to Worship** (responsive)

Ps. 98 1-8

One: Sing to our God a new song.

All: God has done marvelous things!

One: Make a Joyful noise to the Lord!

All: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

One: Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

All: Let the world and its people sing together for joy!

***Hymn of Praise**

"Give Thanks

Purple # 647

***Call to Confession**

John 15:12

We have been called to follow Christ by obeying his one commandment: that we love one another as he has loved us. Let us confess how we have fallen short of that love.

***Prayer of Confession** (unison) John 15:11
Loving God, we have not loved you or each other with our whole hearts. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us toward wholeness, that we may be filled with your joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon** (responsive) John 15:13
One: Christ loves us so much that he laid down his life for us and calls us his friends. If we can forgive our friends, how much more does Christ forgive us!

All: **Thanks be to God!**

***Sung Response** "Gloria Patri" Red # 622
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; World without end. Amen. Amen.

***Declaration of Trust and the Peace**

One: Congregation of Jesus Christ, in whom are you trusting?

All: **Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.**

One: Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: **And also with you.**

(As we have received peace from Christ, let us also pass that peace to each other.)

No one is perfect. God knows that. God asks us to admit our faults. We do this using the *Prayer of Confession*. *Silent Confession* is a time to tell God anything else you are sorry for.

After confessing our sin, we hear the good news that God forgives us in the *Assurance of Pardon*. We then stand and sing the *Gloria Patri* in praise of God's forgiveness.

We Hear the Word

Choral Anthem

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

-Ubi Caritas

Pew Conversation

What does the word "community" mean to you? What is an example of a community in which you feel most comfortable? What is it about that community that makes you feel welcome?

Sung Response

“Jesus Sends Us”

Pew Insert

Jesus sends us to all people, And like Peter, spread the news.

Let us be like Paul and tell them all Of God’s love for all of us.

We are all to be examples Of how God wants us to be.

Let us use the gifts we’ve all received So we serve God’s people’s needs.

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, in the reading of your Word, that we would hear what you have to say to us today. May your Holy Spirit be poured out upon us; through Jesus Christ. Amen

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 13: 1-3

Scripture Reading

John 13: 34-35

Scripture Reading

Romans 12:14-21

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

In the *Prayer for Illumination*, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand God’s Word. “Illumination” means “turning the lights on”.

Scripture is God’s Word to us. We listen carefully and study God’s word.

Message

“*Loving the Unlovely*”

Elder Larry White

We Respond

Hymn of Affirmation

“You Are My All in All”

Purple # 451

***Affirmation of Faith**

We sing for joy, O God, for you are coming to judge the world with righteousness and fairness between people. Now in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our friend, and in the Holy Spirit poured out on us, we sing a new song to praise you for you are doing marvelous things! Amen.

Prayers of the People

Sung Response to Prayer

“Be Not Afraid”

Purple # 243

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Let us show our friendship with Christ and our love for our neighbors by giving generously so that we may bear the lasting fruit of Christ’s love.

Offertory

Doxology means “to give God glory.”

We pray God will use our gifts for God’s work through us and others in the *Prayer of Dedication*.

*Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Prayer of Dedication/Offering (unison)

Holy God, in Christ you have chosen us to be your friends and to know your will in the world. Therefore, we pray in Jesus’ name that these tithes and offerings spread your love near and far. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Jesus was always the guest.

In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, he was always the guest.

At meal tables of the wealthy, where he pled the cause of the poor, he was always the guest.

But here, at this table, he is the host.

And Jesus invites you to come.

So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a fuller life, for a fairer world.

Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

Holy Communion is the sign and seal of our communion with the crucified and risen Lord.

Opening

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give our thanks and praise.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty
to give thanks to you at all times and in all places.
O Lord, our Creator, almighty and everlasting God!
You created heaven with all its hosts and the earth with all its plenty.
You have given us life and being,
and you preserve us by your providence.
But you have shown us the fullness of your love
in sending into the world your Son, Jesus Christ,
the eternal Word, made flesh for us and for our salvation.
For the precious gift of this mighty Savior who has reconciled us to you,
we praise and bless you, O God.
With your whole church on earth and with all the company of heaven
we worship and adore your glorious name.

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Purple #552

***Holy, Holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!***

Most righteous God, we remember in this supper
the perfect sacrifice offered once on the cross
by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the whole world.
In the joy of his resurrection and in the expectation of his coming again,
we offer ourselves to you as holy and living sacrifices.
Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Purple #553

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, that the bread we break and the cup we bless
may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
Grant that, being joined together in him, we may attain to the unity of the faith
And grow up in all things into Christ, our Lord.
And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf,

And these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that your whole church May soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Words of Institution

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes again in glory.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.**

*The Lord's
Prayer is
the prayer
Jesus
taught us.*

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer After Communion (unison)

Loving God, you graciously feed us with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation. May we who have received this sacrament be strengthened in your service; we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth; we who have seen the greatness of your love see you face to face in your kingdom. For you have made us your own people by the death and resurrection of your Son, our Lord, and by the life-giving power of your Spirit. Amen.

We Are Sent

***Parting Hymn**

“We Are One in the Spirit”

Purple #300

***Charge**

Live in the joy of Christ’s love and in all the marvelous things that God is doing!

***Carrying the Light**

One: As we go forth to serve,

All: We carry the light of Christ into the world.

***Benediction**

May the righteous fairness of God, the loving friendship of Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit go with you all.

*** Sung Benediction**

“Christ is Alive!”

Purple # 246 v. 5

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love and praise.

Postlude

(Sanctuary worshippers, please be seated for the postlude.)

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Welcome to those Visiting Today!

We invite you to join us for a brief time of fellowship in Fellowship Hall following worship! If you have children, we offer a preschool classroom for ages up to the age of 7. Enter through the door at the front of the sanctuary and follow the classroom signs.