

*“A good sleep is grace and so are good dreams.
Most tears are grace. The smell of rain is grace.
Somebody loving you is grace. Loving somebody is grace.”
-Frederick Buechner*

Prelude

Eric Kochanowski

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Bob Goossen

Song of Praise

371 “Lift High the Cross”

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.
Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Prayer of Praise

Hymn

455 “All Creatures of Our God and King”

1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest man both warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Thou fertile earth, who day by day,
Unfoldest blessings on our way,,
O sing ye, alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee
grow, let them His glory also show.,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Hear the brokenness of our lives, Precious God. We rush to gawk at those who hurl insults, but quickly disperse when you would call us to be your holy people. We shout as loud as we can to cheer on our sports teams, but can manage only whispers when it comes to sharing the good news.

Forgive us, our Eternal Guide, and do not hold our sins against us. We lay the garments of our foolishness at your feet, so you might clothe us in grace and hope. We would feed on the spiritual food which flows from your heart so we might be strong enough to follow Jesus as he leads us in the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Silence is kept...

Assurance of Forgiveness (responsively)

You are God's Beloved. You are no longer alone, but residents of God's Kingdom. You, who once had no hope, have been filled with a grace gift. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Response

"Gloria Patri"

Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ

Song of Illumination:

106 "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

REFRAIN:

Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, Alleluia, give praise to His name.

1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of creation. [Refrain]

2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth.

Jesus has died and has risen. [Refrain]

The Scripture Lesson: 1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones, let yourselves be built[a] into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Children's Chat

Special Music

Sermon: "Living Stones"

An Affirmation of Faith (unison)

Born in the light of the Bright and Morning Star,
we are new.

Not patched, not mended . . . but new
like a newborn . . .
like the morning . . .

The guilt-blotched yesterdays are gone;
the soul stains are no more!

There is no looking back;
there are no regrets.

In our newness we are free.

In the power of God's continuing creation, we are:
new shoots from the root of Jesse,
new branches from the one true Vine,
new songs breaking through the world's deafness.

This then is a new day.

New shoots, new branches,
new songs, new day . . .

Bathed in the promise of God's New Creation,
we begin!

(New Shoots, by Ann Weems from Searching for Shalom, p. 56)

Hymn: 288 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

1 I sing the mighty power of God
That made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad
And built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command,
And all the stars obey.

3 There's not a plant or flower below
But makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
By order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee
Is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be,
Thou, God, art present there.

Prayers of the People

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.

An Invitation to Our Offering

Hymn: 417 "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever,
And our confidence alone.

4 Laud and honor to the Father,
Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever one;
One in might and one in glory
While unending ages run.

Charge & Benediction