**Easter 6C 11am (2010)**

**THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

ORGAN PRELUDE

*The people stand for the entrance of the Bible*

CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us to this place, a haven for healing and hope.

**We come, with the pain of our burdens,
we come to hear God's word of hope for us.**

Together, we will sing songs of joy;
each of us will hear God whisper our name,
'Beloved of my heart.'

**We join our voices in prayer and praise;
we sing of our longing for new lives.**

Here, our shadowed corners are filled with Light;
here we discover that God dwells in us.

And not just us, for God would teach all to love;
**God's Spirit would lead all peoples in peace.**

**Thanks be to God!**

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND PRAISE
Gracious God, you pour blessings upon us and within us through the person of the Holy Spirit. This gracious gift of your Spirit continues to teach us about Jesus and to remind us of all he said and did. Today we rejoice over the Spirit’s gift of peace to us - the peace which is beyond our human understanding. We welcome this gift and pray that our lives may reflect this peace and your love. May this time of worship be an offering of praise and adoration for all your gifts to us. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

HYMN 527 New songs of celebration render

Welcome

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Listening God, sometimes we pray confidently, trusting in your love. Sometimes we approach you fearfully, conscious of our own failure. Sometimes we are reluctant to pray, evading your call to us. Sometimes our prayer is a snatched moment in the hassle of activity. But always you hear us. Companion God, we find ourselves in your company again, and find ourselves known by you.

Silence

We know that there are times when the noise and activity and busyness of our lives crowd you out. At other times, it may be anger, or pain or disappointment or bitterness that crowd you out.

We are reminded of your gift of peace in our lives that whispers to us of your mercy, your hope, your love. The gift of peace that weaves through the broken and hurt parts of our lives.

And even yet, we recognise those times when we may prefer to hold on to our insecurities and fears, rather than take hold of the gift of your peace. When we prefer to place our faith in what we can see and touch, possess and control. When our lives become entangled with the values of the world, and we forget what you have said and done and promised.
**When we seek our identity in other than you and your teachings, forgive us.**
Jesus, Teacher and Lord, out of love for us, you promise to knit together the wounded parts of our lives with your peace.
**When our anxieties and fears are stronger than our belief in your promises, forgive us. When our insistence on doing our own thing stifles the promptings of your Spirit, forgive us, Lord.**
Lord of every part of our lives, help us to let go of all that hinders our acceptance of your peace, your love and your very life through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. This we pray in your name. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Friends, hear the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and we receive his peace, a peace such as the world cannot give. **Thanks be to God!**

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

ANTHEM Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace

 S.S.Wesley, 1810-1876

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, You have created us, called us, chosen us to be your people. We open ourselves to receive your word of guidance and blessing. Grant us ears to hear, eyes to see, and faith to respond to your love and leadership. In the name of Christ. AMEN.

FIRST READING Acts 16: 9-15

In this is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

PSALM 67 God be merciful unto us … … Parish Psalter

… … …the world shall fear him.

*Please stand and sing the concluding Gloria*

**Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son:**

 **and / to the / Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and / ever /shall be**

 **world without / end. / A / men**

SECOND READING Revelation 21:10, 22, and 22:1-5

In this is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

ANTHEM These are they which follow the Lamb

 John Goss, 1800-1880

*Please stand for the gospel*

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John

Glory to you, Lord

### GOSPEL READING John 14: 23-29

The gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

HYMN 198 There's a spirit in the air

SERMON

THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION

HYMN 521 May the mind of Christ my Saviour

# *During the singing of this hymn our offering will be received.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give this offering to you, generous God. We give ourselves as well. Bless us as we give. Move us to help others and to love them, in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

…..God in Community, Holy in One,
we offer these prayers, even as we pray with all people as Jesus taught us, saying,
**Our Father . . .**

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(printed inside cover of hymn book)*

# THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

# HYMN 573 Son of God, eternal Saviour

BLESSING

Jesus calls us to follow him and learn from him. Jesus sends us to serve with gladness, in faith, hope and love. As you go may the hand of the Spirit bless you and all peoples, and keep us well. May the face of the Spirit shine upon you and all peoples, and love us well. May the counsel of the Spirit guide you and all peoples, and bring us all to everlasting peace, for our world today and always. AMEN.

POSTLUDE Variations sur Lucis Creator Jehan Alain 1911-1940

**Easter 6C 8am 9th May 2010**

CALL TO WORSHIP (8am – psalm 67)

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND PRAISE
Gracious God, you pour blessings upon us and within us through the person of the Holy Spirit. This gracious gift of your Spirit continues to teach us about Jesus and to remind us of all he said and did. Today we rejoice over the Spirit’s gift to us of peace - the peace which is beyond our human understanding. We welcome this gift with thanksgiving and pray that our lives may reflect this peace and your love. May this time of worship be an offering of praise and adoration for all your gifts to us. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

TiS 731 Jubilate

Welcome

* Mothers Day
* Julia Pitman, guest preacher, candidate MoW

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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Sometimes our prayer is a snatched moment in the hassle of activity. But always you hear us. Companion God, we find ourselves in your company again, and find ourselves known by you.

Silence

We know that there are times when the noise and activity and busyness of our lives crowd you out. At other times, it may be anger, or pain or disappointment or bitterness that crowd you out.

We are reminded of your gift of peace in our lives that whispers to us of your mercy, your hope, your love. The gift of peace that weaves through the broken and hurt parts of our lives.

And even yet, we recognise those times when we prefer not to take hold of your gift of peace and to follow your ways.

And even yet, we recognise those times when we may prefer to hold on to our insecurities and fears, rather than take hold of the gift of your peace.

When we prefer to place our faith in what we can see and touch, possess and control. When our lives become entangled with the values of the world, and we forget what you have said and done and promised.
**When we seek our identity in other than you and your teachings, forgive us.**
Jesus, Teacher and Lord, out of love for us, you promise to knit together the wounded parts of our lives with your peace.
**When our anxieties and fears are stronger than our belief in your promises, forgive us. When our insistence on doing our own thing stifles the promptings of your Spirit, forgive us, Lord.**
Lord of every part of our lives, help us to let go of all that hinders our acceptance of your peace, your love and your very life through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. This we pray in your name. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Friends, hear the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and we receive his peace, a peace such as the world cannot give. **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, You have created us, called us, chosen us to be your people. We open ourselves to receive your word of guidance and blessing. Grant us ears to hear, eyes to see, and faith to respond to your love and leadership. In the name of Christ. AMEN.

FIRST READING Acts 16: 9-15

In this is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

SECOND READING Revelation 21:10, 22, and 22:1-5

In this is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John

Glory to you, Lord

### GOSPEL READING John 14: 23-29

The gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

SERMON

HYMN 414 There's a spirit in the air

# *During the singing of this hymn our offering will be received.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give this offering to you, generous God. We give ourselves as well. Bless us as we give. Move us to help others and to love them, in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

**A Litany for Mother's Day adapted from Peggy Emerson**

Mothering God, we draw on the image of you as one who nurtures, who gathers, who protects.

We pray for those women who have nurtured us as mothers and who are no longer with us and whom we miss dearly.

We reflect upon those women who have influenced our own lives in so many ways, and we give thanks.

We pray for the women around the world who are working long days and nights to raise their children right now. We pray for the mothers around the world living in difficult circumstances.

We pray for mothers who have fled violence and difficult situations, including refugees, and who have been separated from their children, or experienced the tragedy of the death of a child. We pray for mothers living in uncertainty and facing an unknown future.

We pray for all the women who are expecting, but aren't quite mothers yet, the soon-to-be-mothers.

We pray for families where a mother’s illness has led to an early death. We think of those women who have died from unclean water, from HIV AIDS, from mosquito borne diseases and from other preventable diseases. We pray for those who step in to help with the care and nurture of the children, including extended family, and we especially for children in Africa who take on the role of mother when they themselves are still only children.

We pray for the women who took in others' children through adoption and foster care.
We give thanks for these mothers with hearts so big.

We pray for those women who have lost a child to death and must carry on. We pray for strength and courage for the mothers who have faced grief and loss.

We pray for women whose children have grown and whom they now seldom see. We pray for mothers who are at a distance from their children.

We pray for all the women who have desperately wanted to have children of their own, but chose instead to mother everyone else. We thank God for the mothers in spirit.

We pray for women leaders in Aboriginal communities who seek to provide a protective environment for children, and whose commitment is to work for a healthy place for children to live and grow.

We pray for those troubled by the prospect of motherhood, perhaps too soon, or too few resources to care for a child.

Mothering God, we offer these prayers to you this day. Hear the prayers of our own hearts.

A silence is kept.

God of promise

**Hear our prayer.**

God in Community, Holy in One,
we offer these prayers, even as we pray with all people as Jesus taught us, saying,
**Our Father . . .**

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(printed inside cover of hymn book)*

Introduction – open table

God of all beginnings,

you spoke a Word, your Spirit acted,

calling forth the first heaven and the first earth.

Rivers teeming with life flowed to the seas,

holiness roamed the hills and valleys,

peace was planted deep in the heart of creation.

In your name, Jesus lived our human lives and reminded us of your promises of mercy, peace, love and embrace.

So, with those who have been called home to you,

and with those who continue to journey your way,

with brothers and sisters around the world today

we join the peoples in praising you:

Holy, holy, holy God….

Here at this table of grace and wonder,

where the simple gifts you have prepared

are set aside for sacred use, your Spirit is poured out upon them and upon those of us gathered here. As we eat the bread broken for us, we feast on the promises that one day pain will be no more, that our tears will mingle with the waters of life. Grant us imagination to see the vision of a world transformed. As we drink deeply from the cup of peace, fill us with the joy of your grace. As we hear the cries of those around us, we are sent to serve them with your hope and justice. Amen.

 Adapted (c) 2010  Thom M. Shuman

Words of institution

Distribution

Prayer after communion

TiS 648 Help us accept each other….

BLESSING

Jesus calls us to follow him and learn from him. Jesus sends us to serve with gladness, in faith, hope and love. As you go may the hand of the Spirit bless you and all peoples, and keep us well. May the face of the Spirit shine upon you and all peoples, and love us well. May the counsel of the Spirit guide you and all peoples, and bring us to everlasting peace, for our world today and always. AMEN.

Passing of the peace

**After sermon**

**TiS 411**

**Filled with the Spirit's power with one accord**
**the infant church confessed its risen Lord.**
**O Holy Spirit, in the church today**
**no less your power of fellowship display.**

**Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,**
**that unity may be our great desire.**
**Give joy and peace; give faith to hear your call,**
**and readiness in each to work for all.**

**Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace**
**in your strong care people of every race.**
**Like wind and fire with life among us move,**
**till we are known as Christ's, and Christians prove.**

ΤιΣ 648

• Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us, and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

• Teach us, O God, your lessons, as in our daily life
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them, or as they may become.

• Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
In living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

• God, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
Renew us with your Spirit; God! Free us, make us one!

After Psalm 67

Taize / TiS 731 / SFFS 2017 / G(II)377 / GC557 / GC(II)535 / W&R212 / URW383 **Raise a song of gladness / Come rejoice in God / Jubilate Deo omnis terra / Jubilate servite** (Berthier) Glorious, fun round. If your congregation balks at singing in Latin, it can be sung in English as "Raise a song of gladness, people of the earth, Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart, Alleluia Alleluia, Joy to every heart (x2)" When I first learned this Taize song, I had it stuck in my head for weeks and weeks, which was a good thing!

TiS 37 AHB 117 **Our God be gracious unto us** (Blake) A simple hymn setting of this Psalm. I would prefer to sing it to RICHMOND (TiS 425).

Raise a song of gladness,

people of the earth,

Christ has come,

bringing peace,

joy to every heart,

Alleluia Alleluia, Joy to every heart (x2)

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