



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP @ HOME

www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome

The 4th Sunday of EASTER
May 3, 2020

Prelude

Children's Medley, Martha Main

We are Called to Worship

One: Sisters and brothers, let us gather together with glad and generous hearts.

Many: For many signs and wonders are being done among us.

One: Let us break bread together and share our lives in common.

Many: Let us give what we can to all who have needs so that all people, no matter who they are, may regard us with good will.

One: Let us devote ourselves to our prayers and to the gospel.

Many: For in this way God will add to our numbers every day.=

Gathering Prayer - Incarnate God, you are the one who comes to us in Jesus Christ. Holy One, you are the one who comes to us in the Holy Spirit.

Sovereign of Earth and Heaven, you are the one who calls us to recognize you today and every day as splendid *Mystery*. Gather our hearts and minds this day. Kindle our God-consciousness. Let us worship you in awe and wonder!

Amen.+

Song 1

Come and Find the Quiet Center, 477, YouTube

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

A Time of Prayer

You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few

moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

Anthem

Love of God, Martha Main

We Hear God's Word

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Meditation

Glad and Generous Hearts

Spiritual Practice of the Week



The early church lifted up an ideal model of how to live together, sharing all of their

resources, and making sure that none went without. Their tables were open to all who were hungry in body and spirit. We are living in a time when there is great need. In what ways can you be generous with not only the resources God has give you but with your words, actions, prayers, and heart? Find ways to practice generosity and to notice the way that people all over the world are being generous.

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Offertory

Friends, we may not be together in person today as we worship, but the ministry of our church goes on. During this time when we are apart, we are still in need financial support for our ministry.

You're invited to take out your checkbook in these moments. As you write out your offering, be prayerful with each letter and number. In times such as these, when money becomes tight and our economy in under strain, God invites us to be generous and give what we can. These are gifts we freely give, as we are able and as we are called.

We ask that you please mail in your offerings to our office.

Zion United Church of Christ
8916 E. Troy Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46239

You can now submit your offerings on our website through a secure PayPal donation button. Please know that PayPal receives at 2.2% processing fee and a \$0.30 transaction charge. You are able to set up reoccurring, monthly payments. Check it out on our website at www.zionuccindy.net/donate.

***The Doxology** (Please sing the version that is most meaningful to you)

Version 1

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

Version 2

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.

***We Give Thanks (unison) – Holy One, touch us with the awe that came upon those early disciples, as they beheld the signs and wonders performed in their midst by the apostles. May the gifts we offer this day be a remembrance of their commitment to share all things in common. In Jesus’s name, Amen.~**

We Gather at the Table

Song 2

Let Us Break Bread Together, 699, YouTube



Our Invitation—Communion was first celebrated in the homes of those in the early church. Friends and family would gather together to pray, singing songs, and break bread. We carry on that tradition today. Whatever you have on hand to celebrate communion will work just fine, because this ancient ritual is not about what we use for this meal or where we partake of it. Instead, it is about the act of remembrance. So gather around the table, prepare your place, and remember that Christ is in our midst.

The Words of Institution—On the night when Jesus was to be betrayed, he gathered with his friends in that upper room to celebrate the Passover meal, a meal of remembrance of the liberation of God’s people from slavery in Egypt. After the meal was over, Jesus took the bread that was left, broke it, blessed it, and said, “Take and eat, this is my body broken for you.” In the same way, he took the cup, the fruit of the vine, and pouring it out he said, “This is the cup of the new covenant, my blood shed for you and the forgiveness of sins. As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, remember me.” Today, we remember Christ’s body broken for us and blood shed for us that we might know more fully of God’s unending love. As we prepare to receive this holy meal, let us ready our hearts by confessing our sins to God. Together let us pray.

Our Confession (unison)— **Holy One**, we confess that there are times when we act out of the scarcity that we perceive rather than the abundance that you have blessed us with. We act out of fear instead of with gladness. Like our early-church ancestors, help us to live with glad and generous hearts. Help us to open up our tables wide so that we can share our resources with one another.

Assurance of Grace— Friends, our good and abundant God offers to us freely the gift of forgiveness. Go and be reconciled to one another. Extend forgiveness and mercy. Having known God’s grace, be glad and generous of heart. Know that this day you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Blessing Our Meal—Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit into this bread and into this cup. Unite us by the power of your Spirit with all who gather around Christ’s table this day. May this meal bring nourishment and strength to our bodies and our spirits and make our hearts glad and generous. Amen.

We Share the Bread and the Cup – As you eat the bread, remember, “This is the body of Christ broken for you, take and eat.” As you drink the cup, remember, “This is the blood of Christ shed for you and the forgiveness of sins. Take and drink.”

We Give Thanks—Loving God, we give you thanks for the simplicity and splendor of this Holy Meal which unites us with our sisters and brothers around the world. We give you thanks that since the beginning, your church has gathered around the table to share of our resources and experience your grace. We pray that we might carry the abundant love made known to us in this meal into every corner of our lives. With glad and generous hearts we lift up our praise and thanksgiving to you. Amen.

Song 3

Called as Partners in Christ’s Service, 581, YouTube

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing – With glad and generous hearts, go forth this day to love and serve the LORD. Amen.

Postlude

Thou Art Worthy, Martha Main

Worship Notes:

+UCC Worship Ways; ~Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020 Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

=Kimberly Bracken Long. Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1: Advent through Pentecost (pp. 148-149). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition.