

**Collenbrook United Church WORSHIP**

May 10, 2020 Fifth Sunday of Easter

**WELCOME SONG – *He Has Made Me Glad (sing 2x)***

***Leona Von Brethorst***

I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart; I will enter His courts with praise.  
I will say, "This is the day that the Lord has made!" I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

**CHORUS:**

He has made me glad, He has made me glad; I will rejoice for He has made me glad

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**CALL TO WORSHIP**

I am too busy; I cannot praise my God.  
My time hangs too heavily on my hands; I cannot praise my God.  
There is too much wrong in the world; I cannot praise my God.  
There is too much noise in the world; I cannot praise my God.  
There is too much quiet in my world; I cannot praise my God.  
There are reasons beyond count to explain why I cannot praise my God.  
I am lonely, I am tired, I am overworked, I have no resources for such a task.

Take our sore places and comfort us.  
Take our weary places and give us rest.  
Take our reasons and overwrite them with your love for us  
and your need for us to be the people you created us to be. Amen.

**BTA**

**HYMN – “God Made from One Blood”**

1. God made from one blood all the families of earth, the circles of nurture that raise us from birth, companions who join us to work through each stage of childhood and youth and adulthood and age.
2. We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears for all of the families we've known through the years, the intimate networks on whom we depend of parents and partners and children and friends.
3. Through families we've tasted the value of trust and felt what it means to be loving and just, yet families have also betrayed their best goals, mistreating their members and bruising their souls.

4. Help families in all of their various forms to face with integrity struggles and storms; grant peace to our homes that will nurture the bud of peace for the families you made from one blood.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRAYER**

*We gather in our own spaces, yet as one people. We come seeking to be people of resurrection. Be known among us, wherever we are. Grant us the assurance of your presence, your love, your renewing power. Through your Word and Spirit, show us the purpose of our lives both personally and as a community of faith. Amen.*

### **CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

God of all, we are reluctant to share our sharp edges, our broken pieces, our cracked facades. Yet, in spite of our hesitation, you know us completely. You know our hearts. You know our actions. You know our inactions. You know our flaws and our strengths. You know everything about us. And you love us still. Forgive all that is about us that is not of you. Forgive all that is within us that falls short of your dream for us. Forgive all that we see within ourselves that is less than and open us to your hope, your promise, your grace and your mercy.

(silence for reflection)

As we breathe in your love, O God, we feel the blessing of your forgiveness, we feel the gift of your healing and we give thanks for your mercy in all times and places. As we receive your forgiveness, may we forgive others around us. May we, too, forgive ourselves in your name. Amen.

### **HYMN – “Shadow and Substance”**

1. Shadow and substance, wonder and mystery, spellbinding spinner of atoms and earth; soul of the cosmos, person of energy, source of our being; we sing of your worth.
2. We are your image, formed in community; sisters and brothers of Adam and Eve. You gave us color, custom and history; teach us to honor what others receive.
3. Naming the nameless Spirit of unity, scanning the heavens for signs of your care; God of the ages, give us humility; guide us to mystical union in prayer.

### **SCRIPTURE**

#### **Psalm 100**

**John 14:1—3, 18—20, 25—27**

**Quote by John Shelby Spong**

*“God is not a Christian. God is not a Jew, or a Muslim, or a Hindu, or a Buddhist. All of these are human systems which human beings have created to try to help us walk into the mystery of God. I honor my tradition. I walk through my tradition but I don’t think my tradition defines God. I think it only points me to God.”*

**MESSAGE**      “Life Pointing to God”      The Rev. Melanie Lawrence-Caldwell

**HYMN – “This Is a Day of New Beginnings”**

1. This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that’s gone.
2. For by the life and death of Jesus, God’s mighty Spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.
3. Then let us, with the Spirit’s daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.
4. Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings – our God is making all things new.

**PRAYER**

**A LITTLE SOMETHING ABOUT GIVING ON WEBSITE OR MAIL**

Prayer of dedication: God, bless our gifts... that they may be shared in the spirit of a resurrection people, ever seeking ways to live out our faith in acts of love and service. Amen.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS/PASTORAL PRAYER**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**CLOSING SONG – “Help Us Accept Each Other”**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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!

**BENEDICTION**      Pastor:      The Rev. Melanie Lawrence-Caldwell

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