

WORSHIP

May 22, 2022

6th Sunday of Easter

(PH=Presbyterian Hymnal, GtG=Glory to God)

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

God's goodness is breaking into the world.

We do not expect the Spirit's movement.

God gathers in those we judged to be outsiders.

We witness this in-breaking as healing, wholeness, restoration, and peace.

OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, you drew out life-giving water from a desert rock. We give you thanks for the water of baptism. In being joined with Christ, we die to what destroys and are raised to new life with Christ. As streams rush into rivers, may our lives flow into yours, joining your creative work for a world in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN: *Shall We Gather at the River* Insert
(Sing all verses)

CALL TO CONFESSION (liturgist)

We are a people living in sin. We are a people in need of God's vision, praying for our eyes to be opened. We are a people in need of God's reversal, praying for our hearts to be softened. We are a people in need of God's reconciliation, praying that our faces might be illumined by God's presence. Let us claim our need of God, confessing our sin together.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, we equate our judgment with your judgment, and often consider our ways to be your ways. We define peace as the absence of disruption, holding our comfort as your aim

and thinking our preferences reflect your way. Too often we act as if we are your authoritative witnesses, believing our worldview corresponds with your vision, and that our narrative contains your hope for the future. O God, dislodge us from our sinful assumptions. Forgive our selfish views. Correct us with your truth and teach us by your Spirit. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

It is the Lord who opens eyes to see. It is the Lord who softens hearts to hear. It is the Lord who returns us to God's presence. Peace, peace, peace—you are loved. You are enough. You belong.

In Jesus Christ we are restored. Thanks be to our God forever and ever.

*GLORIA PATRI Hymnal 579

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, Living Word, as you revealed yourself to Mary that Easter morning, so reveal yourself to us. By the power of your Spirit, give each of us faith, that hearing your Word we, too, may proclaim, "I have seen the Lord!" Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING(S): Rev. 21.10-22.5
John 14.23-29

SERMON *The Advocate* Rev. Camille Josey

*HYMN: *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* PH 326
(Sing all verses)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.26*

Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

375 Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er; soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
 grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;

gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

A Baptist pastor wrote this hymn while seated at his parlor organ. Created as an alternative to gloomy "river of death" hymns, it is a celebration of the "pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Revelation 22:1 KJV).

490

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm) Dm (G) B^b

1 Wash, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, new-born crea-tures
 2 Ev-ery day we need your nur-ture; by your milk may
 3 O how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-i-mag-ined,

(D) F (Bm) Dm

of your womb. Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple, raised like
 we be fed. Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of
 all your ways! To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our

(G) B^b (D) F (A) C

Christ from death and tomb. Weave them gar-ments bright and
 bless-ing, liv-ing bread. God, re-new us; guide our
 lives we wor-ship, praise! We your peo-ple stand be-

(Bm) Dm (F#m) Am (Bm) Dm (G) B^b (A) C (D) F

spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light. Fill, a-noint them;
 foot-steps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in
 fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born. By your grace, our

(Bm) Dm (G) B^b (D) F

send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
 liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
 lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text incorporates many of the images associated with the water of baptism in the Thanksgiving Over the Water in *The Book of Common Worship*, especially nourishment, the calling forth of life, cleansing and renewal, freedom from bondage, and sharing in Christ's resurrection.