

RESURRECTION STORIES

MAY 2, 2021 8:15AM

GATHERING

Blest Be the Tie That Binds Us Together

arr. Mark Hayes
Mark Hagedwood, pianist

WELCOME

Heather Harriss

Holy God, help us to be present in worship this day even as You are present. Amen.

To greet one another and let us know you are here, please click the 'like' or 'love' button. This will be your virtual hello and good morning! We begin worship by bringing in the light of Christ; we invite you to light a candle at home while we worship together, remembering Christ is with us. In the comments, share your joys and concerns, and prayers will be compiled (please list only first names of those for whom you are requesting prayers).

PRELUDE

Oh How He Loves You and Me

arr. Bruce Greer

†GREETING

Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other.

When we love each other, God remains in us and God's love is made perfect in us.

This is how we know we remain in God and God remains in us.

God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them.

(adapted from 1 John 4:11-16)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Widening the Circle

Paul Purdue

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The celebrant gives thanks, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The celebrant continues the thanksgiving.

The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled, and the celebrant concludes:

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The celebrant invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:

All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*You are invited to pray the Lord's Prayer in your native tongue and address God, who is beyond gender, with names that speak to your heart: "Our Mother", "Our Creator", "Holy Parent", or other titles that honor God's love, presence, and goodness.

BREAKING THE BREAD – SHARING THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

OFFERING

Please register your attendance by clicking the link available at belmontumc.org/worship/about-worship.

You may give online at belmontumc.org, text BELMONT to 73256 to give through text messaging, contact Emily Bowland (emily@belmontumc.org) to set up a bank draft, or mail your offering to the church, Box 120098, Nashville, TN, 37212.

†DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

†BENEDICTION

**Those who love God; must love one another
May we accept God's call to this mysterious ministry!
God calls us to a ministry of love
Beloved, let us love one another!¹**

†POSTLUDE

Draw the Circle Wide

Mark Miller

¹adapted from the website re:worship.org