

**4th Sunday of Easter  
April 25, 2021**

**Gathering  
God invites us to enter His presence**

**Prelude**                      *How Majestic Is Your Name*                      *Broughton*  
   *The Lord's My Shepherd*    *Kendall*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Preparation for Worship** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **Call to Worship**    *Celia Weber*

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

**Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.**

Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us and we are his;

**we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

**For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

Let us worship the Triune God.

 **Invocation**    *Celia Weber*

We give you thanks, great God,  
for the hope we have in Jesus,  
who died but is risen and rules over all.  
We praise you for his presence with us.  
Because he lives, we look for eternal life,  
knowing that nothing past, present, or yet to come  
can separate us from your great love  
made known in Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

 **Hymn 26**                      *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

*A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe—  
His craft and pow'r are great, And, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right man on our side, The man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He—  
Lord Sabaoth His name, From age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.*

*And tho his world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph thru us.  
The prince of darkness grim, We tremble not for him—  
His rage we can endure, For lo, his doom is sure:  
One little word shall fell him.*

*That word above all earthly pow'rs, No thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours Thru Him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also—  
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still:  
His kingdom is forever. A-men.*

**Confessing**  
**God invites us to be honest with Him**

**Prayer of Confession**

*Celia Weber*

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Time for Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

*Celia Weber*

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."  
"Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?"  
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.  
But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord*

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**! There is a Redeemer**

*There is a Redeemer,  
Jesus, God's own Son;  
Precious Lamb of God,*

*Messiah, Holy One.  
Thank You, oh, my Father,  
For giving us Your Son,  
And leaving Your Spirit  
'Til the work on earth is done.*

**Offering**

***Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him***

**Invitation** Do good and share what you have,  
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

**Offering** *\*Please place your offerings in the plate in the  
back of the church on your way out*

**Offertory** *What a Beautiful Name* *Fielding/Ligertwood*  
*Duet - Sandy Dulaney & Pamela Johnson*

**! Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

**! Prayer of Dedication**

Merciful God, always out to save, friend of the suffering,  
foe of all who cause suffering, with these gifts we join your  
greater work in the world, confident of your final victory  
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**! Hymn 241**

*Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

*Lo, He comes with clouds descending,  
Once for favored sinners slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending,  
Swell the triumph of His train:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! God appears on earth to reign.*

*Every eye shall now behold Him,  
Robed in dreadful majesty;*

*Those who set at naught and sold Him,  
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.*

*Now redemption, long expected,  
See in solemn pomp appear:  
All His saints, by men rejected,  
Now shall meet Him in the air:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
See the day of God appear.*

*Yea, Amen! Let all adore Thee,  
High on Thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,  
Claim the kingdom for Thine own:  
O, come quickly, O, come quickly!  
Everlasting God, come down.  
A-men.*

**Proclaiming**  
***God speaks to us through His Word***

**Scripture Reading**      *1 Corinthians 15:50-58*

<sup>50</sup> I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

<sup>55</sup> “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

**Sermon**

*“Resurrected Future”  
Rev. Tim Latham*

**Responding**  
**We respond to God's Word**

**! Hymn**

*Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken*  
*(Indelible Grace)*

*Jesus I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow Thee*  
*Destitute, despised, forsaken, Thou from hence my all shalt be:*  
*Perish every fond ambition, All I've sought or hoped or known*  
*Yet how rich is my condition, God and heav'n are still my own!*

*Let the world despise and leave me They have left my Savior too;*  
*Human hearts and looks deceive me, Thou art not like them untrue;*  
*Oh while Thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love and might,*  
*Foes may hate and friends disown me, Show Thy face, and all is bright.*

*Go then earthly fame and treasure, Come disaster, scorn and pain;*  
*In thy service pain is pleasure, with thy favor loss is gain,*  
*I have called thee Abba Father, I have stayed my heart on thee*  
*Storms may howl and clouds may gather, All must work for good to me.*

*Soul then know thy full salvation Rise o'er sin and fear and care*  
*Joy to find in every station, something still to do or bear*  
*Think what Spirit dwells within thee, Think what Father's smiles are thine*  
*Think what Jesus died to win thee, Child of heaven, canst thou repine.*

*Haste thee on from grace to glory, Armed by faith and winged by prayer*  
*Heaven's eternal day's before thee,*  
*God's own hand shall guide thee there*  
*Soon shall close thy earthly mission, Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days*  
*Hope shall change to glad fruition, Faith to sight and prayer to praise.*

**! Profession of Faith**

Leader: Let us now profess our faith along with the saints through the ages.

**People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died, and buried;  
The third day he rose from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
And sitteth at the right hand of  
God the Father Almighty;  
From thence he shall come to judge**

the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## Prayers of the People

### Commissioning

*God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*

#### Hymn 473

*Victory in Jesus*

*I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory,  
How He gave His life on Calvary to save a wretch like me;  
I heard about His groaning, of His precious blood's atoning,  
Then I repented of my sins and won the victory.*

#### *Refrain*

*O victory in Jesus, my Savior, forever,  
He sought me and bo't me with His redeeming blood:  
He loved me ere I knew Him, and all my love is due Him,  
He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.*

*I heard about His healing, of His cleansing pow'r revealing,  
How He made the lame to walk again and caused the blind to see;  
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit,"  
And somehow Jesus came and bro't to me the victory.*

#### *Refrain.*

*I heard about a mansion He has built for me in glory,  
And I heard about the streets of gold beyond the crystal sea;  
About the angels singing, and the old redemption story,  
And some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of victory.*

#### *Refrain.*

#### **Benediction & Blessing**

#### **Postlude**

*Lord of All Life*

*Broughton*

