

Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 2, 2021

Hymn

Bind Us Together

WOV # 748

Chorus: Bind us together Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken
Bind us together Lord, bind us together Lord, bind us together with love.

Verse 1: There is only one God, there is only one King
There is only one body, that is why we can sing.

Verse 2: You are the fam'ly of God, you are the promise divine
You are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine.

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Greeting and Call to Worship

Pastor: We gather with joy, for Easter continues.

All: Like spring crocuses breaking through the earth, the power of resurrection breaks through in surprising ways.

Pastor: Like the vine that supports blossoms and fruit, God's Word upholds the church in strength.

All: Like an attentive gardener, God tends the needs of all creation.

Pastor: Let us worship God who makes all things new.

All: We will praise our God who brings growth to each and every life.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, you are the vine, and we are the branches. Your love is our strength. Your energy is our joy. Your attentiveness is our hope. Your power can transform even the most difficult situations. You nourish our faith and imaginations so that we can bear fruit in many ways. You promise we can dwell in you because you are dwelling in us. We gather today to offer our praise to you, and bring glory to God the Father, through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with the love you know as God, ever Three and ever One, so that our love will honour you each and every day.

All: God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, we confess there are many ways we fail to love you fully. Forgive us our lack of reverence for the earth; for using up more than our share of its resources. Forgive us for ignoring those who suffer pain or discrimination as we dismiss these as mere complaints. Forgive us for seeking praise of others yet failing to encourage them in their endeavours. Forgive us, O God, and root our lives more deeply in your love.

Readings

Acts 8:26-40 & Psalm 22:25-31

Gospel Reading Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

John 15:1-8

Sermon

“Stay Connected”

Hymn

Bless Be the Tie That Binds

LBW #370

Verse 1: Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Verse 2: Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers
Our fears our hopes our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Verse 3: We share each other's woes, our mutual burdens bear
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

Verse 4: From sorrow toil and pain and sin we shall be free
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity

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Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living 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

Lord Jesus Christ, we draw near to you in prayer this day, trusting that your love changes lives and your resurrection brings hope into the world God loves. You have drawn near to us and walk with us through every challenge.

We are so grateful for signs of hope even in the midst of the pandemic, for vaccine distribution and recovery plans, for generosity and creativity offered in so many surprising corners. As we lay before you the concerns on our hearts today, draw near to those we name and bring the gift that is needed.

We lay before you, Lord, those who are in the news headlines this week and situations in the world where justice and renewal are badly needed... *silence*.

We lay before you, Lord, those who are in hospital or care and all those who struggle with illness, pain or health burdens of any sort. We lay before you, Lord, families under stress, relationships that are strained, and friends and neighbours in need of reconciliation... *silence*.

We lay before you, Lord, people seeking food, homes or jobs in these hard times, and those worried about economic recovery from the pandemic... *silence*.

We lay before you, Lord, those who face discrimination daily, and who lack respect and opportunity because of their identity, or fear violence in their daily lives... *silence*.

Lord Jesus, we believe that you hear our prayers and will be faithful to our requests and concerns. Help us seize the moments you give us to reach out to others the love you have to share.

Liturgy for Holy Communion ***“Holy, Holy”***

Lord's Prayer

Agnus Dei ***“Lamb of God”***

Distribution of Bread and Wine

Benediction

Hymn

It Is Well with My Soul

JB #79

Verse 1: When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul!

Chorus: It is well, with my soul; It is well, It is well with my soul

Verse 2: Tho' Satan should buffet, tho' trials should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate and hath shed His own blood for my soul.

Verse 4: And Lord haste the day when the faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, even so it is well with my soul.