

We will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
For us, Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

Let us worship God, made known to us in Christ Jesus.

***Hymn** “Let Us Build a House” MV #1 Kirk Neville

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Steadfast and loving God, you are our refuge in times of trouble and our shelter when we are afraid. In you alone we trust. In you we see our way forward and discover what is authentic. In you we find abundant life. And so we offer you our worship and love as the God who creates and gives life to the world, as the Child who preached the truth of the good news, and the Holy Spirit who guides us; this day and always. Amen.

**Steadfast and loving God,
as Christians we confess that while we know Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, we have often failed to follow him. We sometimes doubt his wisdom and truth. Rather than live the life he offers, we carve out our own paths and pursue our own desires. Forgive us for the many ways we have fallen short of your purpose for our lives. Give us courage to follow Jesus, who continues to show us the way.**

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, do not let your hearts be troubled; know that, in Christ, you are forgiven. Accept God’s grace and forgiveness this day, and extend it to others for Jesus’ sake.

With Jesus, we share in the ancient prayer...

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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

“Halle, Halle, Halle”

VU #958

Kirk Neville

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.
Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

***Hymn** “Seek Ye First the Kingdom” VU #356

All God’s Children

Presentation of Our Gifts

Offertory Invitation

While the season of Easter unfolds, the gifts of spring also remind us of God’s generosity in Christ and in creation. As we present our gifts this morning, may our generosity reflect God’s goodness to us and the hope for abundant life in Christ Jesus. We give as we are able, we give as we are called.

Offertory “What Can I Do?” MV #191

***Presentation of Offering**

***Offertory Prayer**

Generous God, we bless you for your gift of life renewed through Christ’s love and through springtime growth in fields and gardens. Bless the gifts we bring. May they offer hope and renewal in the world you love as we serve in the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

Listening for the Word

Sacred Readings

Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵ like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶ For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷ To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” ⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

John 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.”⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the

Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Anthem Sarah Annema

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Responding to the Word

***Hymn** "Like a River of Tears" MV #98 Kirk Neville

***Blessing**

We go,
but we are not alone.
We travel,
with our God.
We journey,
with Jesus by our side.
We celebrate life,
and all its fullness together.

Choral Benediction "Go Now in Peace" Kirk Neville

Postlude