

GATHERING

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from 1 John 4

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

We love because he first loved us.

Let us worship God.

*OPENING PRAYER

We behold your glory, O God, in the love shown by your Son, lifted up on the cross and exalted on high. Be glorified anew in the love we have for one another as disciples of the risen Lord Jesus, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

WELCOME

*HYMN # 356

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

GOODNESS IS STRONGER

Goodness is Stronger than Evil

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.

Victory is ours, victory is ours through him who loved us.

Victory is ours, victory is ours through him who loved us.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word, that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40 (p. 127, New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21 (p. 241, New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-8 (p. 109, New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

*HYMN # 376

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Abide With Me
Noel Edwards, tenor

S. Liddle

*DOXOLOGY

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

EASTER HYMN

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

(see insert)

SENDING

*HYMN # 302

I Danced in the Morning

SIMPLE GIFTS

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE



ORDER OF WORSHIP
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 29, 2018
Presbyterian Church in Needham