

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*from Psalm 98*

Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

**Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

Sing to God with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the Sovereign, the Lord.**

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein.

**Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who is coming to judge the earth.**

Let us worship God.

#### \*OPENING PRAYER

Risen Christ, may we who in baptism die to sin, rise again to new life and find our place in your living body. May the new covenant sealed in your blood bring healing and reconciliation to this wounded world. Alleluia. You are risen. We are risen with you. Praise and glory to the living God. **Amen.**

#### \*HYMN # 416

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

*Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

#### \*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 10:44-48 (p. 130, New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6 (p. 241, New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING: John 15:9-17 (p. 109, New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### SERMON

#### \*HYMN # 492

*Baptized in Water*

BUNESSAN

\*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

*The Gift of Love*

H. H. Hopson

\*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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(see insert)

**SENDING**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*HYMN # 514

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

LINSTEAD

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE



ORDER OF WORSHIP  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 6, 2018  
Presbyterian Church in Needham