

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Opening *Marche Solennelle from Suite No. 1*

Felix Borowski

Call to Worship

One: O people, praise our God -- the Artist of creation, the Lord of heaven and earth.

All: We worship our Maker with resounding praise!

One: In God we live and move and have our being; it is the Lord who gives us life and breath.

All: God has kept us among the living and not let our feet slip.

One: God formed all people to seek the Lord; indeed, our Creator is never far away.

All: Bless the Lord, who is faithful to us!**Hymn #245** *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!*

"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia! All creation, join to say: Alleluia!
 Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!
 Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
 Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!
 Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
 Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!
 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia! Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!
 Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia! Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, you challenge us by saying, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." We confess before you that we have broken your law of love. We have put selfish pleasures above the common good. We have sought the protection of false gods rather than putting our faith in you. We have kept silent, rather than testifying to our belief. For not showing our love for you by loving one another, forgive us. Help us obey your commandments and keep us ever faithful to your Word by the power of your Spirit, who abides with and among us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon**Passing the Peace****Prayer for Illumination****First Scripture Reading:** I Peter 3:13-16a**13** Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?**14** But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated,**15** but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;**16a** yet do it with gentleness and reverence.**Second Scripture Reading:** Acts 17:16-31**16** While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols.**17** So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.

18 Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, “What does this babbling want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.” (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.)

19 So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?”

20 It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.”

21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.

23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,

25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

26 From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,

27 so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.

28 For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’

29 Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.

30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Homily “Accounting for Hope”

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

Affirmation of Faith *From A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

Offertory *Ride On, King Jesus!*

arr. William Cutter

Marilyn Wilkins, soprano

Ride, on, King Jesus! No man can hinder me.
For He is King of kings, and He is Lord of lords.
O Jesus Christ, the first and last, no man works like Him.
King Jesus rides a milk white horse, no man works like Him!
The river of Jordan He did cross, no man works like Him.

For He is King of kings, and He is Lord of lords.
O Jesus Christ, the first and last, no man works like Him.
King Jesus rides in the middle of the air, no man works like Him.
He calls the saints from ev'rywhere, no man works like Him.
Ride, on, King Jesus! No man can hinder me.
Ride on, ride on, ride on, ride on Jesus!

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *Fugue in G Major (BWV 577)*

J. S. Bach

Remember in your thoughts and prayers:

Health concerns: Louis McCaleb; Jimmy Gilchrest; Luis Alvarez; Donna Morrison; Bill McPhail; Jane Christopher; Dave Askine; Joyce DeLoach.