

MORNINGSIDE-HIGH PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Warmly welcomes everyone to this online audio worship service!
May 24, 2020

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude, Welcome & Announcements

Responsive Call to Worship

One: Source of wisdom and life-giving knowledge,

All: you are the Creator.

One: Bringer of hope and understanding,

All: you are the Redeemer.

One: Giver of power and strength,

All: you are the Sustainer.

One: We celebrate this Sunday the mystery of Jesus ascending into heaven.

**All: May we wonder with awe as we worship the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
Holy God, Three-in-One.**

Opening Hymn –Rejoice, the Lord is king

Rejoice, the Lord is King; your sovereign Lord adore;

Give thank, O mortals, sing and triumph evermore.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice; rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

For Christ the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love;

When Jesus purged our stains, He took his seat above.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice; rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

His reign can never fail; He rules o'er earth and heaven:

The keys of death and hell are to our Saviour given.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice; rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

He sits at God's right hand til all His foes submit

And bow to His command and fall beneath His feet.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice; rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ the judge shall come

And take the faithful up to their eternal home.

We soon shall hear the archangel's voice; the trump of God shall sound: rejoice.

Words by Charles Wesley

Music by John Darwall, Willian Henry Monk, and Sydney H. Nicholson

Prayers of Adoration, Confession & Lord's Prayer

Let us pray...

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.

Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
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.

Words of Assurance & Peace of Christ

In every helping hand to sustain life...

One: May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Hymn – This is my Father’s world

This is my Father’s world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world: I rest me in the thought;
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas God’s hands the wonders wrought.

This is my Maker’s world; the birds their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker’s praise.
This is my Maker’s world; God shines in all that’s fair;
In the rustling grass, God’s footsteps pass; God speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Saviour’s world; oh let me not forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Saviour’s world; the battle is not done;
Jesus, who died, shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.

*Words by Maltbie D. Babcock
Music by English traditional melody*

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

Psalm 68:4-10, 19-20, 28, 32-35 (NRSV)

(Parents, please remember there is a colouring page in the PDF file for your children with the words “Sing to God, sing praises”.)

⁴ Sing praises to God and to his name!
Sing loud praises to him who rides the clouds.
His name is the LORD—
rejoice in his presence!

⁵ **Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—
this is God, whose dwelling is holy.**

⁶ God places the lonely in families;
he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy.
But he makes the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

⁷ O God, when you led your people out from Egypt,
when you marched through the dry wasteland,
⁸ the earth trembled, and the heavens poured down rain
before you, the God of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel.

**⁹ You sent abundant rain, O God,
to refresh the weary land.**

¹⁰ There your people finally settled,
and with a bountiful harvest, O God,
you provided for your needy people.

**¹⁹ Praise the Lord; praise God our savior!
For each day God carries us in God's arms.**

²⁰ Our God is a God who saves!
The Sovereign LORD rescues us from death.

**²⁸ Summon your might, O God.
Display your power, O God, as you have in the past.**

³² Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth.
Sing praises to the Lord.

**³³ Sing to the one who rides across the ancient heavens,
his mighty voice thundering from the sky.**

³⁴ Tell everyone about God's power.
His majesty shines down on Israel;
his strength is mighty in the heavens.

**³⁵ God is awesome in his sanctuary.
The God of Israel gives power and strength to his people.
Praise be to God!**

Hymn – Salvation belongs to our God

Verse 1

Salvation belongs to our God,
Who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb.
Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks,
honour and power and strength...

Chorus

... Be to our God, forever and ever,
... Be to our God, forever and ever,
... Be to our God, forever and ever, Amen!

Verse 2

And We, the redeemed, shall be strong
In purpose and unity, declaring aloud:
Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks,
Honour and power and strength...

Chorus (2x)

... Be to our God, forever and ever,
... Be to our God, forever and ever,
... Be to our God, forever and ever, Amen!

Words and Music by Adrian Howard and Pat Turner

Scripture Reading – Ephesians 1:15-23 (NRSV)

¹⁵ Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, ¹⁶ I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, ¹⁷ asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. ¹⁸ I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. ²¹ Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. ²² God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. ²³ And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Invitation to Offering

Special Music – *“Here I bow”* by Jason Ingram, Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin, Brian Johnson and Jenn Johnson

Message – Acts of hope in these hard times...

(Parents, there is a colouring page in the PDF file for your children that is based on Acts 1.)

As an activity, parents and children can play “I Spy with My Little Eye” for a few minutes before the message. During the game, “spy” with your eye one of your family members OR a family member in a photograph that's in the room for the kids to guess.

After playing the game, tell the children that we see colours and shapes with our eyes but we also see actions. Then ask them what kind of actions they have seen their siblings or you (mom & dad) do this week.

Ask them what kind of actions God wants the family to be doing.

Ask them what kind of actions God wants the church to be doing.

To close, first tell the children that God wants us to share God's love by our actions, and when our actions are kind, people will see that we are Christians by our love.

Second, ask the children to think about what action of kindness they can do for someone on this, the Lord's Day.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn – We are one in the Spirit

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
And they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land,
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
And they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work sided by side,
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride,
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
And they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, who is God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one,
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
And they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Words and Music by Peter Scholtes

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Intercession

Let us pray...

WE GO INTO THE WORLD TO SERVE

Hymn – For the beauty of the skies

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine, to the earth so freely given,
Graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

Words by Folliott Sandford Pierpoint

Music by Adpt. Chorale by Conrad Kocher; William Henry Monk, and Carman H. Milligan

Benediction

Choral Amen

Sing amen. **Amen, we praise your name, O God.**

Sing amen. **Amen, we praise your name, O God.**

Sing amen. **Amen, amen, amen, amen,
amen, we praise your name, O God.**

Postlude