

*Welcome to St. Paul's
The Lord Bless You as You Worship!*



***Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2026***

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Rev. Lori Nickoloff, Pastor

Enter to Listen, Exit to Serve

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We're glad you're here! May you experience God's love through the words you hear and sing, the meal you eat, and the fellowship of God's people.

Prayer Requests If you have a prayer request, please give a note to the ushers or send an email to Pastor Lori.

Face Masks Just a friendly reminder...please wear a mask in the building if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19/experiencing any kind of respiratory or flu-like symptoms. Masks are available on the table in the narthex in case you forget yours at home. Thank you!

Holy Communion All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. (If you feel your child is ready to receive or have additional questions, please speak with Pastor Lori.) Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Wine is in the outer rings of the tray. Grape juice is in the center of the tray. Gluten-free bread is available; please indicate your need to the pastor.

Pew Cushions Are available on the pew in the back of the sanctuary.

Hearing Assistance Individual hearing devices are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please return the device at the end of worship so they can be sanitized.

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We Worship God

Welcome

Prelude

“Nun Bittten wir den Heiligen Geist”

Dietrich Buxtehude

*The prelude is a time for people to become quiet, to meditate and pray, and to prepare their hearts and minds to worship God. You are invited to pray this prayer to help you transition from the cares and activities of daily life to worshipping the Living God: **God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

Please rise in body or spirit

Call to Worship

P: Praise God, who made the world,

All: and all that lives within it!

P: The God of heaven and earth

All: does not live in human shrines.

P: This one gives life to all,

All: and we are God’s own children!

Confession and Forgiveness

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Merciful God,

All: give us the willingness to be honest with ourselves, with one another, and with you about the ways in which we have caused harm in this world. Give us the openness to see where our actions or failures to act have led to pain in those closest to us and in those far away. Do not let us sink further into self-harm through self-blame and hatred, but give us the courage to set right our wrongs, and to return to you again and again for forgiveness.

P: The risen God has raised you to newness of life in Jesus’ name. You are in Christ a new creation, and God forgives you every wrong. Celebrate with all

of creation a world redeemed, and lavish the love you have received on all that is.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn:

Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove

#404

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are arranged in four numbered stanzas. The first system contains the first two lines of the first stanza. The second system contains the last two lines of the first stanza and the first two lines of the second stanza. The third system contains the last two lines of the second stanza and the first two lines of the third stanza. The fourth system contains the last two lines of the third stanza and the first two lines of the fourth stanza. The music concludes with a double bar line.

1 Come, gra - cious Spir - it, heav'n - ly dove, with light and
2 The light of truth to us dis - play and make us
3 Lead us to Christ, the liv - ing way, nor let us
4 Lead us to heav'n, that we may share full - ness of

com - fort from a - bove. Come, be our guard - ian
know and choose your way; plant ho - ly fear in
from his pas - tures stray. Lead us in ho - li -
joy for - ev - er there; lead us to our e -

and our guide; o'er ev - 'ry thought and step pre - side.
ev - 'ry heart, that we from God may ne'er de - part.
ness, the road that we must take to dwell with God
ter - nal rest, to be with God for - ev - er blest.

Text: Simon Browne, 1680–1732, alt.

Music: HERR JESU CHRIST, MEINS, German folk tune, 15th cent.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise:

This is the Feast

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

P: Faithful God,

All: you have promised the Spirit to be with us forever. May our lives show

**through our love and devotion to you that this one truly lives within us,
for the sake of Jesus our risen savior. Amen.**

Please be seated

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

A: Almighty God,

All: **through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the light of eternity. Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit, that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge in the reading of the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

~ from a collection of prayers posted on the **Worship@North** website. <https://northchurchindy.wordpress.com/>

Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 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. 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, 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. 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, 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. 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.' 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. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 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."

Psalm 66:8-20

A: Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

All: For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

A: You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs; you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

All: I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows, those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

A: I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

All: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.

A: I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.

All: If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

A: But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

All: Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? 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, 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; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few,

that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

A: Word of God, Word of life.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Please rise in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation

Be Not Afraid

#388

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

The Gospel

P: The Gospel according to John.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 14:15-21

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. “I will not leave you

orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

Sermon

Rev. Matthew Nickoloff

Following the sermon, there is a time of silence for reflection and quiet meditation. Our liturgy is made up not only of words, gestures, and music, but also moments of silence.

As the hymn begins, the assembly stands to sing.

Hymn of the Day:

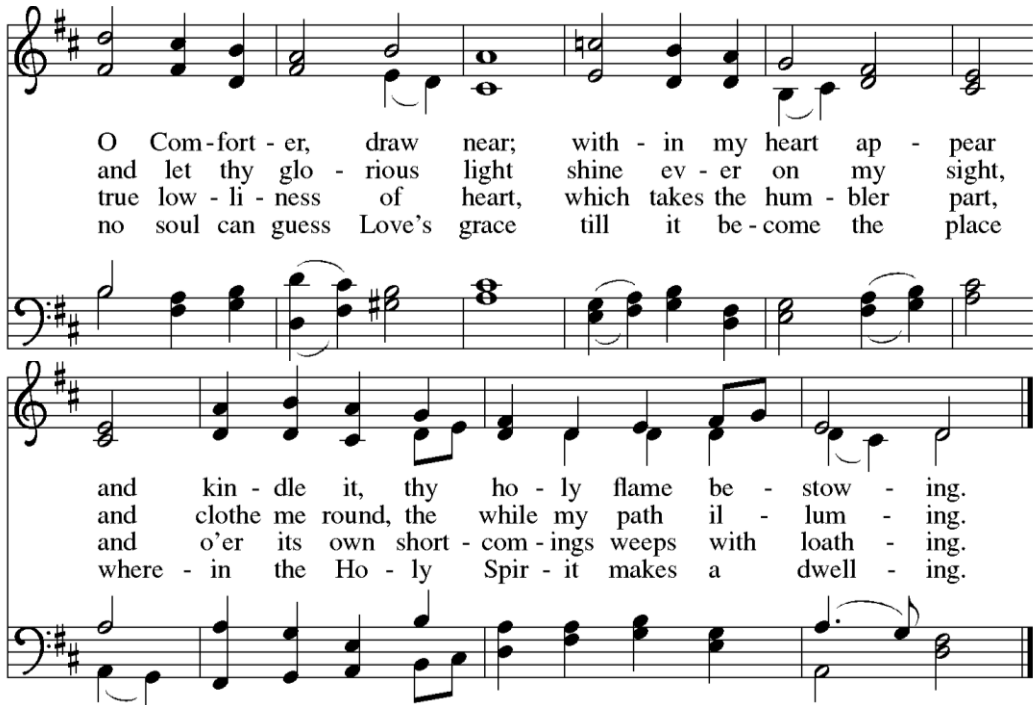
Come Down, O Love Divine

#804

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the final four lines. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes. The bass line provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.

1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine
 2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn
 3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,
 4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—
 shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com-fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,
no soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.
where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833–1890
Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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Nicene Creed

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

All: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is

seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

A: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A: Your command to love is the simplest but hardest of all. Open our hearts as only you can, that we would receive the ones you give us to love, excluding no one—including ourselves. Gracious God,

All: hear our prayer.

A: You give life and breath to all that exists in this world, and in worlds yet unknown to us. Keep us connected to the source of our being, and to all that shares this planet with us. Gracious God,

All: hear our prayer.

A: Bless all mothers and all who care for others in a nurturing way. Heal broken relationships and bind old wounds. Comfort those who grieve mothers, children and lost chances at creating life. Gracious God,

All: hear our prayer.

A: Be with those going through trials and challenges in their lives, and show them that your Spirit has never left them. We lift up this day (*especially...*). Gracious God,

All: hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

A: Your disciples never failed to share your gospel with all those whom they met. Give us their fire, courage and tenacity of spirit to be lights in the places where you have put us in this world. Gracious God,

All: hear our prayer.

P: You have promised never to leave us orphaned and alone. Join our prayers with those of all people around the world, and join us in love with all your children, for whom we ask these things in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Sharing of Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please turn to the people near you to offer a gesture of peace and the greeting, "God's peace be with you!" You are also encouraged to turn to the back of the sanctuary and greet the worshippers on Zoom with a wave or gesture of peace.

Please be seated

Offering

*This month our Local Hunger Offering will be given to **Yates County Christmas Program.***

Offertory Music

"Voluntary and Fugue in D"

William Goodwin

Please rise in body or spirit

Offertory Hymn:

verse 4 of The Day of Resurrection ELW 361

***All praise to God the Father, all praise to Christ the Son,
all praise to God the Spirit, eternal Three in One!
Let all the ransomed number fall down before the throne,
and honor, pow'r, and glory ascribe to God alone!***

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us come into God's house with offerings of thanksgiving and gratitude for all that we have received.

All: Bless these gifts and may they be the means through which others may also be blessed by you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Share God's Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: Unknown yet revealing God, it is our duty and joy to thank and praise, because from on ancestor you made all nations to inhabit the earth, and you allotted their times and boundaries, so they would search for you, in whom they live and move and have their being. While our lives are circumscribed by the limitations of our minds and bodies, your life is beyond our reach and outside our imagining. Yet in your mercy you embodied all your promises to your people in the sending of your Son, and through his dying and rising you have brought us to your throne of grace. And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels, and all who with your ascended Son sit at your right hand on high, singing the hymn of your unending praise.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

P: Sending and accompanying God, you do not leave us orphaned, but in Christ you made us your adopted children, and in your Spirit you send an Advocate to be with us forever. By the power of that same Spirit, take the fragile flesh of your people and transform it into the resurrected glory of your church; and come down upon these gifts of bread and wine and make them be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup. Again he gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." Great is the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

P: Sanctifying God, from the abundance of your limitless glory, bless your children who suffer for doing right. Give to those who stand trial the gentleness and reverence of your Son. As in Christ you proclaimed your word to the spirits in prison, make yourself known to all who find themselves incarcerated in body, mind, or spirit. Be close to any who live in public shame, and all who carry the humiliation of others in their hearts. Breathe your power upon your people where they face persecution, oppression, or false charge, that in truth you shall lead us to all truth, until that day when the whole earth is judged in righteousness by the one you have appointed and raised from the dead, and we stand before you, forgiven, loved, and free, ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Eucharistic Invitation

P: Because you live, O Christ, so do we. Feed us on this holy food and give us all we need for this life. Send us out nourished, refreshed to travel another day through this life you give us freely. Come and eat at the table of grace!

All: Amen.

Please be seated

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Hymns During Communion:

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading
Spirit of God, Descend upon my Heart
The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done

#401

#800

#366

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

Njoo kwetu, Roho mwema

Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.
 1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.
 2 Come to teach us, come to nour - ish those who be - lieve in Christ.
 3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing done in your ho - ly name.

Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya.
 It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.
 Bless the faith - ful, may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
 Mo - ti - vate all in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.

Refrain

Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,
 nor rootless liberty;
 turn disquiet to contentment,
 doubt into certainty.

5 Keep us fervent in our witness,
 unswayed by earth's allure.
 Ever grant us zealous fitness,
 which you alone assure.

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious
 4 Christ closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound-ed you, from death's sting free your

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen

Prayer After Communion:

A: Living God,

All: **as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ. Through this meal may we be strengthened to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

We Leave to Serve

Announcements

Benediction

P: Go out into the world as the people of God in this place, and may the God who raised Jesus from the dead grant you grace, the Son who gave his life for you give you peace, and the Spirit who is with you day by day, inspire you to greater service both now and forever more.

All: Amen

~ written by Rev Margaret Whyte, and posted on the Church of Scotland's **Starters for Sunday** website. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

Litany

L: God does not live in shrines made by human hands.

All: **God is not limited to a single church, or synagogue, mosque, temple, or cathedral.**

L: God is not found in just one nation,

All: **Nor bound by those who worship, pray or serve in just one way.**

L: God does not live in gold or silver, bronze or marble, forms or icons.

All: **God is not revealed by just one painter or sculptor, musician or poet, theologian or layperson.**

L: For God who made all lands and peoples, the living earth and all that crawl,

walk, swim, or fly,

All: cannot be held inside one place, or in one creature's form or face.

L: Our God is one and over all,

All: and in the hearts of all who love.

Please stand to sing the hymn and turn to face the flame as it exits the church

Sending Hymn:

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

#392

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,

his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the

vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful

Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus

out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

Sending

A: Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia**

Postlude

"Hymn of Glory"

Edward Broughton

Hymn Notes ELW 804 “Come Down O Love Divine”

The text is from a larger work in manuscript by Bianco da Siena (1350-1434): “Laudi Spirituali,” which remained unpublished for four centuries. A Jesuit, Siena’s writings were inspired by Augustine and were criticized and suppressed by the Papacy for being too mystical.

The metrical structure of the lines: 6 6 11, 6 6 11 is unusual but allows the two short phrases (6 syllables) their own spaciousness before the long running out of the answering/completing phrase (11 syllables).

The text is a passionate prayer to the Holy Spirit emphasizing our humility and describing the transformative burning flame and glorious light dwelling in the hearts of those who receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

DOWN AMPNEY is named for Ralph Vaughn Williams’ (1872-1958) birthplace. It flows smoothly even with the unique meter of the text. The harmonies are straightforward except for the second part of the third line. Here, the composer employs a chain of chords based on a series of descending fourths: C, G, D, A. The third phrase is interrupted by a C major chord that is not closely related to the home key of D major and startles the ear at the very moment in the text that describes the Holy Spirit’s profound effect on us.

Vaughn Williams’ long life allowed him to write numerous works for the church and many regard him as England’s greatest composer.