

**JASPER UNITED CHURCH**

**May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Mission Statement**

“Our mission is to worship God and deepen our Christian faith. We strive to seek justice, be an inclusive, caring and accepting community, and to be stewards of God’s world.”

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“The most empowering relationships are those in which each partner lifts the other to a higher possession of their own being.”

—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

**GOD GATHERS US IN**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Territorial Acknowledgement**

**Announcements**

**Celebrations and Remembrances**

**Settling Moment**

**Christ Candle**

Friends, here is the light! Christ is risen!

*(The Christ candle is lit.)*

**The Living One is in our midst, now and forevermore!**

**Call To Worship** (based on Psalm 98)

How wonderful it is to abide in the company of one another.

**Gathered in friendship, we shall sing a new song to God!**

Our hearts rejoicing, we remember God’s steadfast love.

**Hearts overflowing, we make a joyful praise!**

We lift our hearts to the One who calls us friend.

**Joy Abounds!**

We sing our new song to God.

**Come let us worship in the company of one another. Amen**

**Opening Hymn: *Spirit of the Living God***

**VU 376**

**Opening Prayer**

Spirit of the Living God, fall upon us as we gather. Let your Spirit flow in us, rooting us in your love and binding us in love to one another. Make us one in mind and heart; create in us a new song of love. Let it’s melody overflow from us, it’s sweet notes of fellowship fill the streets and hearts of our communities, our cities and beyond. Let your love song draw us ever closer to You and one another. Amen

**Prayer of Confession**

**God, we come to you with hearts open in joy, grateful for your love made know in the loving relationships that surround us. Desiring that we might come to know you more wholly, you make it simple – love one another. Three simple words to follow. But we can complicate it, sometimes even without our realizing we have done so. We add our conditions and consideration, defining love on our terms. But you set no limits on Your love. So why do I?**

(Time of silent confession)

**Forgive me when I limit love. Abide with me as I learn to abide more fully in you and become the Christ-like ambassador I desire to be. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

God is the healer of our every ill. God who knows us better than we know ourselves sees your desire to let love rule your spirit. God, the Christ of our heart, dwells with you. Listen to God’s own heart and make it yours. You are forgiven. You are loved to be love. Thanks be to Christ.

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Prayer for Illumination**

O God for whom there are no barriers, no stones too big to remove, roll away our resistance to you. Let your words fill us with new life

and bring us out from the tomb of indifference, alive again in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen. (Celebrate God's Presence, 197)

### Scripture Readings

Acts 10:44- 48

John 15: 9 – 17

**Reflection: *Abiding – The Start of a Loving Friendship***

**Hymn: *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love***

**VU 593**

### GOD NURTURES – WE RESPOND

**Sacrament of Communion**

**Celebration of Communion**

**The Welcome**

**Communion Hymn: *Eat This Bread***

**VU 466**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

Let us open our hearts in thankful prayer.  
Hallelujah, thanks and praise, ever-living God,  
worker of wonders, maker of miracles,  
author of all life, and giver of life eternal!  
Out of chaos and fear you bring beauty and hope.  
Out of despair and death, you create courage and new life.  
And so, with the risen Christ,  
who makes all things new  
by the power of his resurrection,  
we join in the song of a new day,  
to sing your praise:  
**Holy, holy, holy God,  
Power of life and love!  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory!  
Hosanna through the ages!  
Blest is the One who comes to bring your justice to earth!**

### **Remembering Jesus At Table**

On the last night that Jesus spent with his friends,  
he took an age-old tradition of his people  
and transformed it into something new.  
As they were celebrating the Passover meal,  
he took bread, saying: "Blessed is the Holy One of Israel,  
sovereign of all that is, who brings forth bread from the earth."  
After the blessing, Jesus broke the bread,  
gave it to the disciples, and said;  
**"Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you.  
Whenever you do this remember me."**

At the end of the meal, Jesus took the cup,  
saying; "Blessed is the Holy One of Israel,  
Sovereign of all that is, who creates the fruit of the vine."  
Having offered thanks, Jesus gave the cup  
to his friends gathered around the table and said;  
**"This cup is the new relationship with God,  
sealed with my life. Take this and share it."**

Glory to you, Gracious God.

**Glory to you, now and forever.**

By what we do here, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**We remember Jesus**

**On Good Friday he died.**

**On Easter he rose again.**

**Now he lives forever.**

### **Prayer of Blessing**

Loving God through your goodness,

we have this bread and this wine

which the earth has given and human hands have made.

We ask that you bless it as we receive it that it may become the symbol of your loving presence in our midst.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts,

that all who eat and drink at this table may be signs

of your life and love to one another and the world.

### **Prayers of the Community**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

And the people say, **Amen**

And the people say, **Amen!**

#### **Breaking The Bread And Pouring The Wine**

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life,  
whoever comes to me will never be hungry;  
whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

#### **Sharing Of The Bread And The Cup**

#### **Prayer After Communion**

Gracious God may your gifts of love transform and enliven us that we may live lives of thanksgiving. May your presence among us provoke such longing for your realm, that we will never be satisfied until the

whole earth knows your justice, your peace, and your love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

### **Offering**

**Offering Hymn *This is the Day That God Has Made* VU 175  
(Refrain Only)**

#### **Offering Prayer**

**Easter reminds us of God's generous love for us. With thanksgiving and deep gratitude, we offer our gifts for God's use for a new song of justice and love in the world. And just as we have offered our gifts, may we too continue to offer ourselves to God's service. Through these gifts and in our lives, we live in resurrection hope. Let us sing loudly. Amen**

### **GOD GOES WITH US INTO THE WORLD**

**Closing Hymn: Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet VU 245**

#### **Commissioning & Benediction Postlude**

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Ministers: All of us by the grace of God  
Leading worship today: Ann Thomas, Pam Jeck  
and Rev. Linda McLaren