

**Sunday May 24, 2020**

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**WELCOME**

VU = Voices United Hymn Book

**THE GATHERING**

**Prelude:** There is a Balm in Gilead                      arr. Betty Pulkingham

**Call to Worship:**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

This day God calls us

to be people of the resurrection!

Let us take our place in the procession

of all who have celebrated Christ's resurrection  
through the centuries.

**Amen! Alleluia!**

**Let us live out the power of Christ raised from the dead.**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Let us worship God!

**Amen!**

**Opening Hymn:** VU 159, The Strife Is O'er (1)

The strife is o'er, the battle done;

the victory of life is won;

the song of triumph has begun, hallelujah!

The powers of death have done their worst,

but Christ their legions has dispersed;

let shouts of holy joy outburst, hallelujah!

He closed the ancient gates of hell,

the bars from heaven's high portals fell;

let songs of praise his triumph tell, hallelujah!

On the third morn he rose again,

glorious in majesty to reign;

O let us swell the joyful strain, hallelujah!

(2)

**Prayer of Approach:**

**Servant Christ,**

**help us to follow you out of the dark tomb,**

**to share daily your resurrection life,**

**to be renewed daily in your image of love,**

**to be used daily as your new Body**

**in your service to the world.**

**Servant Christ, help us to follow you.**

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**Scripture Reading:** Marie Nesbitt

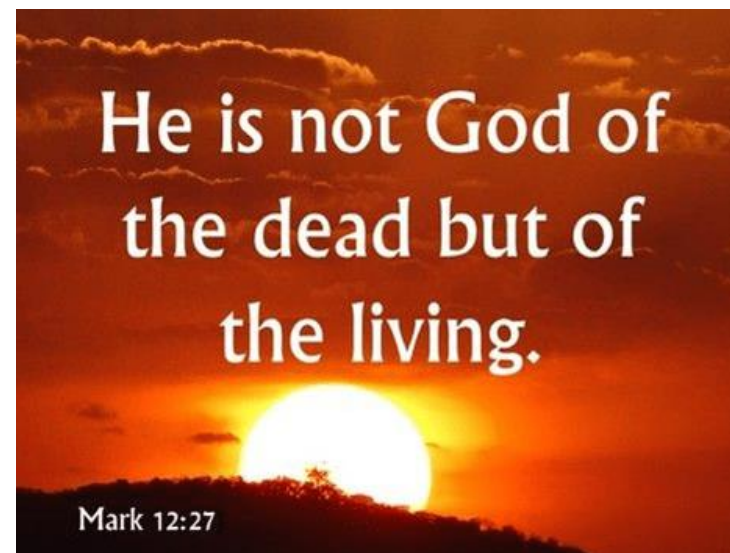
Mark 12: 26 - 27

*<sup>26</sup> And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said to him, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'?*

*<sup>27</sup> He is God not of the dead, but of the living; you are quite wrong."*

This is the Gospel of Christ

**Thanks be to God**



(3)

**Scripture Reading:** Marie Nesbitt

1 Corinthians 15: 1 – 26, 51 - 57

<sup>1</sup> Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand,

<sup>2</sup> through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures,

<sup>4</sup> and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

<sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.

<sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

<sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

<sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

<sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

<sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?

<sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised;

<sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.

<sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

<sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised.

<sup>17</sup> If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

<sup>18</sup> Then those also who have died in Christ have perished.

<sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

(4)

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

<sup>21</sup> For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being;

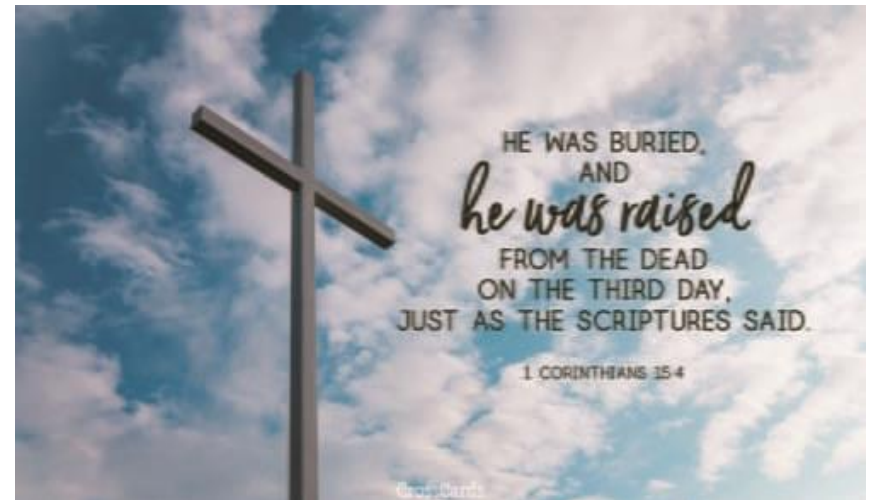
<sup>22</sup> for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

<sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

<sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power.

<sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

<sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.



(5)

<sup>51</sup> Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed,

<sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

<sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

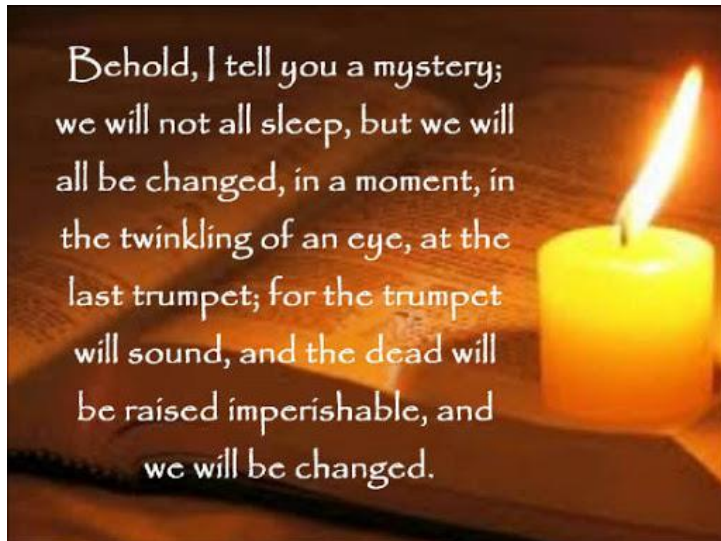
<sup>55</sup> “Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of God

**Thanks be to God**



**Ministry of Music:** Menuette no. 4

Beethoven

**Reflection:** Rev. Cordelia Karpenko

(6)

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**Time of Offering**

**The Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer:** Spoken

### SENDING FORTH

**Closing Hymn:** VU 664, What a Friend We Have in Jesus (2)

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,

all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?

Christ the Saviour is our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do our friends despise, forsake us? Are we tempted to despair?

Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,

and we'll find new courage there.

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**Postlude:** Redeemed

Wm.J. Kirkpatrick

### ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

We gather to experience, show and share the difference God's love in Christ makes in our lives.

We strive to be a people growing spiritually, while reaching out to others in response to Jesus Christ.

*1 Words: From Latin 17th century, translated by Francis Pott.*

*Music: William Henry Monk, from melody by Giovanni Palestrina.*

*2 Words: Joseph Medlicott Scriven, Music: Charles Crozat Converse.*

