

**Edgewood Presbyterian Church  
Homewood, Alabama  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
May 21, 2023**

**\*\*Please text any prayer requests to 205-924-5080 before the Sharing of the Peace.  
Please include your name, unless you wish the request to be anonymous. \*\***

**Prayer of Preparation**

*Fill my heart with the Good News – and let my voice sing it out. Amen.*

**Chiming of the Trinity**

**Waters of Baptism**

“God welcomes all, strangers and friends;  
God’s love is strong and it never ends.”

**Prelude**

*All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

Hymn Tune: HOLY MANNA

Setting: Wilbur Held

**Welcome**

Rev. Joe Genau

**Call to Worship**

Lynn Hutton, liturgist

We have gathered –  
new followers and lifelong disciples,  
the powerful and the powerless,  
those who have too little and those who have an overabundance.  
**We have gathered, for we are one in Christ.**

We have come –  
seekers and skeptic,  
sinners and saints,  
the poor in spirit and the rich in faith.  
**We have come, for we are eager to hear God’s word.**

We are here, together.  
**Let us glorify the God we know through this community,  
the one God of our lives.**

## Prayer of the Day

### Hymn 401

### *Gather Us In*

### GATHER US IN

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming;  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken;  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 We are the young; our lives are a mystery.  
We are the old who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;  
give us the courage to enter the song.

3 Here we will take the wine and the water;  
here we will take the bread of new birth.  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away:  
here in this place the new light is shining;  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever;  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

## Invitation to Reconciliation

### Prayer of Brokenness

**You are the God of victory over death,  
but we have withheld ourselves in doubt and skepticism,  
resistant to your call on our lives.  
Forgive us, God of grace.  
Anoint us with your Holy Spirit and open our eyes to your call.  
Break into our hearts with your risen presence,  
that we may faithfully follow you in love and be your resurrection people.  
We now share with you in silence the burdens of our hearts...**

## Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel:  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, and restored to new life!**

### Gloria 582

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)  
F B $\flat$  E $\flat$  B $\flat$  Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F $\sharp$ ) (Bm)  
C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.  
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)  
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

## Prayer for Illumination

### Psalter

### Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35

- <sup>1</sup> Let God rise up, let God's enemies be scattered; let those who hate God flee.
- <sup>2</sup> As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;  
as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish at the presence of God.
- <sup>3</sup> **But the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God;  
let them be jubilant with joy.**
- <sup>4</sup> Sing to God, sing praises to God's name;  
lift up a song to the one who rides upon the clouds –  
the one whose name is I AM – rejoice before God!
- <sup>5</sup> **Parent of orphans and protector of widows are you,  
O God, in your holy habitation.**

<sup>6</sup> God gives the desolate a home to live in;  
God leads out the prisoners to freedom, but the rebellious live in desert places.

<sup>7</sup> **O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,**

<sup>8</sup> **the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

<sup>9</sup> Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;  
you restored your heritage when it languished;

<sup>10</sup> **your flock found a dwelling in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.**

<sup>32</sup> Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the LORD.

<sup>33</sup> **O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;  
you send out your voice, your mighty voice.**

<sup>34</sup> Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel;  
and whose power is in the skies.

<sup>35</sup> **Awesome are you in your sanctuary, O God of Israel;  
giving power and strength to your people. Blessed be God!**

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

**New Testament Lesson**

**Acts 1: 1-14**

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

***“Eyeline”***

The Rev. Joe Genau

1 Come down, O Love Divine;  
 seek out this soul of mine,  
 and visit it with your own ardor glowing.  
 O Comforter, draw near;  
 within my heart appear,  
 and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

2 O let it freely burn,  
 till earthly passions turn  
 to dust and ashes in its heat consuming.  
 And let your glorious light  
 shine ever on my sight,  
 and clothe me round,  
 the while my path illuming.

3 And so the yearning strong,  
 with which the soul will long,  
 shall far out pass  
 the power of human telling.  
 For none can guess God's grace,  
 till Love creates a place  
 wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

## Sharing of the Peace

## Announcements for the Community of Faith

### Anthem

*I Will Sing a Song of Love*

John L. Bell

**Chorus:** *I will sing a song of love to the one who first loved me,  
 and I'll sing it as a child of God who is named and known and free.  
 For the love of God is good, it is broad and deep and long,  
 and above all else that matters God is worthy of my song.*

1. *And I will not sing alone but with earth and sky and sea,  
 for creation raised its voice well in advance of me.*
2. *And I'll sing with every soul, every language, every race,  
 which proclaims this world is good for God has blessed this place.*
3. *And I'll sing for what is right and against all that is wrong,  
 because God is never neutral who inspires my song.*
4. *As I bring to God my joy, so I'll bring to God my pain,  
 for there is no hurt which God requires me to retain.*
5. *While my life on earth still runs, may my song to God be given,  
 till through grace I join the harmony of all in heaven.*

## Offering of Tithes and Gifts

### Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
 praise Christ, all people here below;  
 praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
 praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

## **Invitation to the Lord's Table**

### **The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

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

### **Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup**

### **Communion of the People**

#### **Music at Communion**

*I Come to Thee, O Blessed Lord*

Hymn Tune: GENEVAN

Johann Gottfried Walther

#### **Concerns of the Church & Prayers of the People**

*Please text your prayer requests to 205-924-5080.*

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#### **Hymn 295**

*Go to the World*

SINE NOMINE

1 Go to the world! Go into all the earth.  
Go preach the cross where Christ  
renews life's worth,  
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

2 Go to the world! Go into every place.  
Go live the word of  
God's redeeming grace.  
Go seek God's presence  
in each time and space.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

3 Go to the world!  
Go struggle, bless, and pray;  
the nights of tears  
give way to joyous day.  
As servant church,  
you follow Christ's own way.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

4 Go to the world!  
Go as the ones I send,  
for I am with you till the age shall end,  
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

#### **Charge from the Steps**

#### **Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Joe Genau

#### **Postlude**

*Fugue in G*

Johann Ludwig Krebs