

LITURGY FOR RESURRECTION DAY

Sunday, 27 March 2016

Towards a Spirituality for a New Creation THE VICTORY OF THE CRUCIFIED MESSIAH

The Faith Community Praises the Lord of Life and History

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

Joyful music is played while people are assembled outside the church/venue in an act of meeting up with the resurrected Christ. (A band using different musical instruments are used for the entire worship.)

Processional follows with selected individuals bringing the following resurrection symbols:

- Bible To symbolize the written testimony of Christ' resurrection
- Flowers To symbolize freshness
- Seedlings To symbolize victory of life over death
- Christ' Candle To symbolize the light of Christ overcoming darkness
(Lighted after the Call to Confession)
- Offering plates To symbolize readiness of people to offer life and material resources for the work of kin-dom building.

(Other symbols may be used to symbolize life's victory over the powers of darkness and death.)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Liturgist: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

People: Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Women: The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

People: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

Men: the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."

People: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

Youth: The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

People: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

Liturgist: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

People: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

Women: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

People: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

All: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*DANCE OF CELEBRATION

♪ Lord Of The Dance ♪

Sydney Carter

I danced in the morning when the world was begun
I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun

I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Chorus:

Dance, then, wherever you may be
I am the Lord of the dance, said he
And I lead you all, wherever you may be
And I lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribes and the Pharisees
They wouldn't dance, and they wouldn't follow me
I danced for the fishermen James and John
They came with me so the dance went on. (*Chorus*)

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame
The holy people said it was a shame
They ripped, they stripped, they hung me high
Left me there on the cross to die. (*Chorus*)

I danced on a Friday when the world turned black
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back
They buried my body, they thought I was gone
But I am the dance, and the dance goes on. (*Chorus*)

***INVOCATION** (In unison)

God of life, we come today to happily celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Be with us once again through the Holy Spirit to help us fully understand what it means to celebrate Easter especially in this time and context. In Christ' name. Amen.

Response: They cut me down and I leapt up high
I am the life that will never, never die
I'll live in you if you'll live in me
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

Chorus:

Dance, then, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance, said he
And I lead you all, wherever you may be
And I lead you all in the dance, said he.

DRAMATIC READING (Coming from different directions)

Voice 1: Mocked by his tormentors and abandoned by his closest friends, Jesus breathed his last with the sole assurance that he had accomplished the mission that God sent him for. It didn't matter what lay in store for him beyond his crucifixion. But God gave Jesus an answer that he didn't ask for. He bestowed on him a blessing never received by anyone before—the power of resurrection from the dead!

Voice 2: God didn't just rescue him from the world of the dead which was the destination of every mortal being. God granted him the power of resurrection that no one else has but the almighty and eternal God. Sharing this power with God, Jesus has received the authority to share it also with those who believe and follow him. God has more than answered Jesus'

question about his fate. God made Jesus' resurrection the end goal of every believer who followed him and carried their crosses for his sake.

Voice 3: There is another side to God's answer to Jesus. God affirmed and vindicated his chosen path of obedience. Jesus took up the cause of those who have suffered abuse, violence, neglect, humiliation and oppression by society's powers-that-be. Instead of being decorated he was despised, persecuted, criminalized and made to suffer. By his resurrection, God upheld his choice to be with the world's sufferers. Although Jesus failed to change the world in his life on earth, God endorsed his pursuit of truth and justice as the right path towards the establishment of his kingdom on earth. Jesus' resurrection is the ultimate proof of God's approval of his work in the world.

(Lifted from the UCCP Sunday School Guide, Year 1, The Essence of Christian Spirituality, Companion Guide for the Teachers and Other Users)

Response:

HFJ 163

♪ **Christ the Lord is Risen Today** ♪

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Make like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!
O'er the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

The Faith Community Recognizes Its Shortcomings

CALL TO CONFESSION (Liturgist)

O Risen and Victorious Christ, whose love and light destroyed the darkness of death, whose compassion forgives all sins of this world especially the sins we now confess to you. *(Pause for silent confession while the Christ candle is lit.)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON (Minister)

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." With these words of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, may we be at peace with God and with one another, living our lives for the life of the world. Amen.

Let us then rise and extend our hands to everyone as a sign of renewed relationship and commitment to live as lights of the world. (Joyful music is played once more.)

GREETINGS AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS

COMMUNITY PRAYER

The Faith Community Listens to the Proclamation of God's Living Word

THROUGH READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 65:17-25
FROM THE EPISTLES: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26
*FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 24:1-12

THROUGH CHORAL PROCLAMATION OR INTERPRETATIVE DANCE

THROUGH THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

(Moment of individual reflection)

The Faith Community Offers to God Life, Time, Talents and Treasure

CALL TO OFFERING (Liturgist)

In our singing and prayers we offer our adoration and praises to God for all the blessings showered upon us. As we now commit our lives to the works of the Church empowered through Christ's resurrection, let us now bring our offerings to God as a symbol of our thanksgiving and commitment to participate in building God's reign here on earth.

OFFERTORY AND SONG

♪ Give Thanks ♪

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son
And now let the strong say, "I will help"
Let the rich say, "I will share"
Because of what the Lord has done for us,
Give thanks.

***DOXOLOGY**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (In unison)

Loving God, Lord of victory, Lord of the dance, through your sustaining empowerment, we move on to greater heights of dedicated service to you and to humanity. Your generous and liberating love makes such a claim possible. And so, as an expression of our faith and thanksgiving, we joyously offer what we know belongs to you: ourselves and our gifts for the cause of justice and abundant life for all. We sincerely pray in the name of our victorious Messiah, Jesus. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

HFJ 170

♪ **We Thank You, God, for Sunday** ♪

We thank you God for Sunday, the day when Christ arose,
The day of praise and meeting, of blessing and repose,
Each day, each hour is sacred, you guide us all the way,
We praise you most for Sunday, our resurrection day.

The first day of creation when naught had come to be,
Your Holy Spirit brooded upon the formless sea,
And then you split the silence and spoke: "Let there be light!"
Before the dusk of evening, you made both day and night.

This first day as we gather we seek for new life, new birth,
The eighth day of creation when you renew the earth,
Remold your yearning people, reshape our shattered clay,
So we may rise each morning to resurrection day.

***CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION**

Minister

***FIVEFOLD AMEN**

RECESSIONAL

POSTLUDE

We are a community of the resurrected body, sent off to faithfully preach the Gospel of love and holistic salvation towards a new creation.