

From the Pews, Holly Vanderwal

The encounter with Jesus at the end of Luke is an emotional rollercoaster. The bible tells us that the disciples were startled, frightened, troubled, doubtful, incredulous, joyful, and amazed. Reading between the lines, I can also imagine that there was worry, confusion, curiosity, guilt, anxiety and excitement.

They were hiding away – afraid of what would happen if they braved the streets of Jerusalem. They were grieving the loss of a person they loved and wondering what life would be like without Him. They knew that their lives had changed for good and were uncertain what the future would bring.

In Covid-19 times, we can certainly empathize with the situation of the disciples in this passage of Luke. Like them, many of us are also hiding away inside or even timidly starting to emerge into a world that has been marred by a worldwide tragedy. We are grieving what we have lost and fearful about what we may lose. Yet we have also found joy in unexpected places such as spending more time with family, learning a new hobby, and taking note of small daily happiness we may not have seen before. Together (but apart) we also celebrated in gratitude the profound wonder of Easter, remembering Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for our salvation.

Jesus rose from the dead. He is risen! Yet that's not the end of the story. We know from Matthew and Mark about Jesus' commission to his disciples to spread the Good News. The disciples' story hasn't ended. They will go on to teach the Word, form churches, manage disputes within congregations, write letters, face jail time and even death. Through their hardships, however, the joyful knowledge that Jesus is risen fuels them and helps them keep going. Their story isn't over.

Ours isn't either.

There are challenges ahead, but the joyous news of His ascension can sustain us and encourage us through them. May the Peace that Jesus bids His disciples also sustain you through the rest of your story. He is risen indeed!



Preparation for **Worship**

“A waiting person is a patient person.
The word patience means the willingness
to stay where we are and live the situation out to the full in the belief that
something hidden there will manifest itself to us.”
—Henri Nouwen

Gathering and Preparing for **God's Word**

Prelude *O How He Loves You and Me* Kaiser

Welcome and Announcements

Sentences of Scripture, *Psalms 25*
To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul,
O my God, in you I trust.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord: teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

Let us worship God.

Hymn #248 *Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna* HYMN TO JOY
See hymn sheet.

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God in your presence we confess
our weariness with a new way of waiting.
We are used to waiting in line, waiting for food
at tables of fellowship with friends in restaurants,
waiting in traffic, waiting for a group of friends to arrive,
waiting to pick our children up from school.
You have been gracious in the waiting.

Now we wait for ways to connect with those who need to hear from us.
We wait anxiously for updates from family,
news of declining cases, and progress on vaccines.
We wait for patience to love our children through the next activity,
forgiveness for ourselves when we judge how we respond to each day.
We wait for strength and renewal.
You are gracious in the waiting.

O Lord you are gracious beyond the waiting.
In your mercy, forgive us, free us, and help us to live in your light,
dedicating our lives and our waiting to you,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Response #177, *I Will Come to You*

*I will come to you in the silence;
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice.
Be still and know I am here.
Do not be afraid I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine.*

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Isaiah 40:28-31*

Time for Children

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 24:36-49*

Homily, “*Stay Here*”

Organ Meditation

Be Still My Soul

Finlandia

Responding to **God's Word**

Affirmation of Faith, Adapted from *The Confession of 1967*

The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in
which people are reconciled to God and to one another. The Spirit
enables us to receive forgiveness as we forgive one another and to
enjoy the peace of God as we make peace among ourselves.

In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all,
moves us to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience,
and initiates the new life in Christ.

As we mature in love and faithfulness in our life with Christ,
we live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days
and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and
helpful to others.

Prayers of Intercession & Dedication

The Lord's Prayer

**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 debts
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Hymn #547 *Go My Children With My Blessing* AR HYD Y NOS

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* HYMN TO JOY

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Mary Kathleen Duncan, Lauren Slingerland, Leigh Stuckey, *liturgists*

Nancy Smith, *organist*

Mark Kemp, *vocalist*

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! 248

1 Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
 2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.
 3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.

Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
 Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.
 Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.

In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.
 Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.
 Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"

Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.
 Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!

In commenting on this late 20th-century text, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: "Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection."

Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for -
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; here my ten - der com - fort

ev - er. Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 glo - ry. Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 stilled you. Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22-27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.