

Astoria First United Methodist Church
May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Frances Gunn

CENTERING MUSIC

*“I Come with Joy”
(verse 1)*

Mary Frances Gunn

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Michael

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pam Johnson

It is not difficult to be God’s beloved child. We are called to live in God’s love! God shows the way of peace and hope. God's love conquered the world. We are more than conquers through him who loved us. We experience joy when we continually remember God is always near and always present. Let us be open to receiving your love, O Lord, so that we can learn to love others. We are called to extend the love of God to all people. We learn about such love through the lives of people who live it. May our thoughts, feelings, words, and actions reflect lives wholly devoted to you.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Michael

NT SCRIPTURE READING

“Acts 10:44-48”

Pam Johnson

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Joy to the World”

Mary Frances Gunn

PSALTER READING

“Psalm 98”

Pam Johnson

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the

horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord! Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Pastor Michael

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(read by the liturgist)*

Pam Johnson

Loving and Merciful God, we thank you for the community in which you have placed us, for the brothers and sisters with whom we walk this pilgrim journey. Yet, we confess that we fail to love as you love. We push aside those whom we judge to be least in your Kingdom. We fail to recognize your presence among us, because we fail to see your presence in one another. Impart to us and in us, a new vision of community in which all are welcome, and all are loved, valued, and accepted, without condition, always.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

(read by the liturgist)

Pam Johnson

This is God's good news: wherever we have wandered, God gathers us up and brings us home. Whatever we have done, God forgives us. Whoever we think we are in this life, we remain God's beloved children in whom God is well pleased and delighted, and upon whom God's favor rests. Jesus said to his disciples, "I have called you friends. You did not choose me, but I chose you!" In this Resurrected Jesus we are forgiven. May we be reconciled to God and share in God's great work of loving the world through us. Hallelujah!

EPISTLE READING

"1 John 5:1-6"

Pam Johnson

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR BEST GIFTS TO GOD

Pastor Michael

In times of ease and times of difficulty, love remains the calling. It asks us to hold nothing back. To be courageous in facing our fears. To hand ourselves over completely to God and each other - that we know the kingdom is near. With this hope, let us share all that we have and all that we are to God. Our best for God's glory.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor Michael

HYMN OF PREPARATION

(verses 1-6)

Congregation

"O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing"

UMH#57

GOSPEL LESSON	<i>(Projected on Screen by Power Point)</i> “John 15:9-17”	Pastor Michael
SERMON	“Loving and Being Loved”	Pastor Michael
JOYS AND CONCERNS		Mary Frances Gunn
PASTORAL PRAYER		Pastor Michael
LORD’S PRAYER		Pastor Michael
<i>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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN</i>		
BENEDICTION:		Pastor Michael

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC
as they join us for worship.**

Happy Mother’s Day!

**We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.
Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.
If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.
We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.**