



First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood Online Worship
Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 10, 2020

PRELUDE

THE WELCOME & SHARING OF CHURCH LIFE

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

At the break of dawn, a bird sings.

The long night of darkness is over.

The stone is rolled away.

The tomb is empty.

The sun begins to shine.

The Son has risen!

It's a morning of glory,

Of love overcoming death,

Of women spreading Good News,

Of men turning from despair.

It's a morning of joy,

For Easter has come again.

Love is stronger than death.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Lord, we come together in joy,

For each Lord's Day is a celebration of Easter,

A festival of hope, a day of victory,

an expression of new life.

We pray that during this hour,

miracles will take place:

That the discouraged will gain confidence,

That the despairing will receive hope,

And the disillusioned will regain faith.

For Jesus lives and is present.

HYMN #643

"Now Thank We All Our God"

(Please sing!)

1 Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;

and keep us in God's grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God,
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son
and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is,
and shall be evermore.

CALL TO CONFESSION**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

Gracious God, tender and strong as a mother, warm and embracing as a father, you have given us great gifts: an inquisitive mind, a thirst for justice, a generous hand, a compassionate heart. Yet, in our families we fail to cherish the gifts of each and to encourage the growth of all.

Forgive us for limiting choices, hiding emotion, hurrying the slow one, holding back the eager one. Restore a holy balance and an honest appreciation to our life together. Amen.

(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**GLORIA PATRI #581**

"Glory be to the Father"

(Please sing!)

Glo-ry be to the Fath-er and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the beg-

in-ning, is now and ev-er shall be. World with-out end; A - men. A - men.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**SCRIPTURE**

John 20:11-18

HYMN #241

"Woman, Weeping in the Garden"

(Please sing!)

1 Woman, weeping in the garden,
who has pushed the stone aside?
Who has taken Jesus' body,
Jesus Christ the crucified?

2 Woman, waiting in the garden,
after men have come and gone,
after angels give their witness,
silently you watch the dawn.

3 Woman, walking in the garden,
Jesus takes you by surprise;
when the gardener calls you, "Mary!"
faith and joy meet in your eyes.

4 Woman, weeping in the garden,
weep for joy, for you have seen
Jesus, the Messiah, risen;
Christ, of whom the prophets dream.

5 Woman, dancing from the garden,
find the others and proclaim
Christ is risen as he promised;
tell the world he knew your name!

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:8-20

SERMON

Those Brave Women of Love

Pastor Michael Rucker

HYMN #44

"Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us"

(please sing!)

1 Like a mother who has borne us,
held us close in her delight,
fed us freely from her body,
God has called us into life.

2 Like a father who has taught us,
grasped our hand and been our guide,
lifted us and healed our sorrows,
God has walked with us in life.

3 Though as children we have wandered,
placed our trust in power and might,
left behind our brothers, sisters,
God still calls us into life.

4 When we offer food and comfort,
grasp our neighbor's hand in love,
tread the path of peace and justice,
God still walks with us in life.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

**In our Easter faith,
Let us transform the world.
Let us help, not hurt.
Let us forgive, not hate.
Let us walk together, not apart.
Let us be gentle, not quick to condemn.
Let us bring peace, not a sword.
Let us hope, not be hopeless.
Let us be caring, not uncaring.
Let us be Christ-filled, not worldly guided.
Let us be Christ to neighbor, friend, stranger, co-worker...
Let us be Christ to everyone.
In the name of our risen Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

**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. Amen.**

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

HYMN #161

"Woman in the Night"

(Please sing!)

1 Woman in the night,
spent from giving birth,
guard our precious light;
peace is on the earth.
Woman in the crowd,
creeping up behind,
touching is allowed:
seek and you will find!

Refrain:

Come and join the song,
women, children, men.
Jesus makes us free to live again!

2 Woman at the well,
question the Messiah;
find your friends and tell:
drink your heart's desire!
Woman at the feast,
let the righteous stare;
come and go in peace;
love him with your hair! (Refrain)

3 Woman in the house,
nurtured to be meek,
leave your second place,
listen, think, and speak!
Woman on the road,
from your sickness freed,
witness and provide,
joining word and deed:
(Refrain)

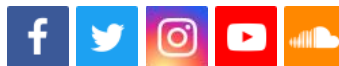
4 Women on the hill,
stand when men have fled;
Christ needs loving still,
though your hope is dead.
Women in the dawn,
care and spices bring,
earliest to mourn,
earliest to sing!
(Refrain)

BENEDICTION

Participants in this worship service:

The Rev. Michael P. Rucker, pastor | Shaun Cloonan, minister of music | Sunny Sakai, pianist
Elder John Foster, videographer

This service may be found posted on our website at www.fpcedgewood.org,
on our YouTube channel, or audio only on our SoundCloud channel at
www.soundcloud.com/fpcedgewood



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*Believing we are called together by God's love through Jesus Christ,
our mission as the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood is to
love God, to love each other, and to love our neighbors.*

120 East Swissvale Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15218 | 412-241-4613 | fpcedgewood.org | The Rev. Michael P. Rucker, pastor



643 Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
 2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,

who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:

who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

Woman, Weeping in the Garden 241

1 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, who has
 2 Wom - an, wait - ing in the gar - den, af - ter
 3 Wom - an, walk - ing in the gar - den, Je - sus
 4 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, weep for
 5 Wom - an, danc - ing from the gar - den, find the

pushed the stone a - side? Who has tak - en Je - sus'
 men have come and gone, af - ter an - gels give their
 takes you by sur - prise; when the gar - dener calls you,
 joy, for you have seen Je - sus, the Mes - si - ah,
 oth - ers and pro - claim Christ is ris - en as he

bod - y, Je - sus Christ the cru - ci - fied?
 wit - ness, si - lent - ly you watch the dawn.
 "Mar - y!" faith and joy meet in your eyes.
 ris - en; Christ, of whom the proph - ets dream.
 prom - ised; tell the world he knew your name!

This hymn focuses on Mary Magdalene, the first witness to Christ's Resurrection (John 20:1–18). Her frame of mind turns from sorrow and apprehension to joy and proclamation in the middle stanza when the supposed gardener calls her by name, and she recognizes the risen Christ.

44 Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us



1 Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us
 2 Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our
 3 Though as chil - dren we have wan - dered, placed our
 4 When we of - fer food and com - fort, grasp our



close in her de - light, fed us free - ly from her
 hand and been our guide, lift - ed us and healed our
 trust in power and might, left be - hind our broth - ers,
 neigh - bor's hand in love, tread the path of peace and



bod - y, God has called us in - to life.
 sor - rows, God has walked with us in life.
 sis - ters, God still calls us in - to life.
 jus - tice, God still walks with us in life.

This text was inspired by how the prophet Hosea describes the parental nature of God's relationship with Israel (Hosea 11:1-19). The last stanza echoes Christ's teachings about love of neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40/ Mark 12:29-31) and care for "the least of these" (Matthew 25:31-46).

Woman in the Night



1 Wom-an in the night, spent from giv - ing birth,
 2 Wom-an at the well, ques - tion the Mes - siah;
 3 Wom-an in the house, nur - tured to be meek,
 4 Wom-en on the hill, stand when men have fled;



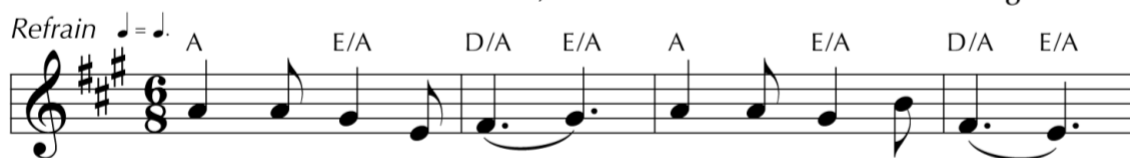
guard our pre - cious light; peace is on the earth.
 find your friends and tell: drink your heart's de - sire!
 leave your sec - ond place, lis - ten, think, and speak!
 Christ needs lov - ing still, though your hope is dead.



Wom-an in the crowd, creep - ing up be - hind,
 Wom-an at the feast, let the righ - teous stare;
 Wom-en on the road, from your sick - ness freed,
 Wom-en in the dawn, care and spic - es bring,



touch - ing is al - lowed: seek and you will find!
 come and go in peace; love him with your hair!
 wit - ness and pro - vide, join - ing word and deed:
 ear - li - est to mourn, ear - li - est to sing!



Come and join the song, wom - en, chil - dren, men.



Je - sus makes us free to live a - gain!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Beginning with a reference to Mary giving birth to Jesus, this text describes a series of women who had important encounters with his life, ministry, death, and resurrection. The dancelike refrain celebrates how their experiences reveal that the Good News is for all people.