

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

We come to celebrate Christ's ascension, our Father and mother God. We remember that his physical removal from earth made possible the coming of the Holy Spirit who is our companion at all times and in all places. We glorify God our parent, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. One God in three manifestations. Therefore, we thank you, God, that you are ever-present and ever blessing us. In Christ's name. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- In his life Christ is an example showing us how to live in his death he is a sacrifice satisfying our sins in his resurrection a conqueror in his ascension a king in his intercession a high priest.
 Martin Luther
- No wound is so trivial that the love of God is not concerned with it. No pain is so deep, so long-standing, that the love of God cannot reach it. Every shock, every wound, every anger and grief is not only encompassed by that love but is also held and transformed by that love.
 Flora Wuellner (Author)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Jesus, you reign in heaven,

People: and we on earth recognize you as Lord.

Leader: Not all the world sees this as clearly as we would like,

People: so we pray today that you will strengthen us in spite of our

weakness,

Leader: so that we will not stand idly, gazing into heaven for your return,

People: but look towards our family- your children- and serve them,

Leader: and be served by them,

People: instruct them,

Leader: and learn from them as well.

People: Jesus, you are never far from us.

Leader: Keep us safe,

People: as we prepare to enter the front lines of a world that needs your

gospel.

PRAISE SONG: Children of God (music at end of bulletin)

THE CONFESSION:

All: Loving Lord Jesus, with silent persistence you have watched over and loved every person and all of creation. You ache every time we destroy beauty, every time we harm one another, every time greed squashes kindness. You see when we ignore the outstretched hand and turn a deaf ear to cries for help.

Merciful God, forgive us and help us to grow into your witnesses. Help us to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly on the earth. Forgive us and let your Spirit fill us with courage. Forgive us and remind us of the ways you bless us. Never let us forget your all-embracing love! Never let us forget that you are watching over us. Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: If I Believe in Jesus (music at end of bulletin)

THE READING: Acts 1:1-11

This is the beginning of the second book written by Luke which is about the life of the early Christian community powered by the Holy Spirit and it especially focuses on the leadership provided by Peter and later Paul. This section speaks of Jesus' final words to His disciples and His ascension to heaven.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

THE GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

This is the end of Luke's book about the life of Jesus concluding with Jesus' last words to His disciples and then His departure from earth.

Then Jesus said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

MESSAGE: "Time to Grow Up" - Pastor David School

THE MESSAGE RESPONSE: Every Day (music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

One: Be forever blessed,

All: Forever loved,

One: Forever watched over by the risen Lord,

All: Forever called by name.

One: Go, knowing God's grace,

All: Sharing God's peace,

One: Living God's justice,

All: We are God's children, One: Let us live as God's children.

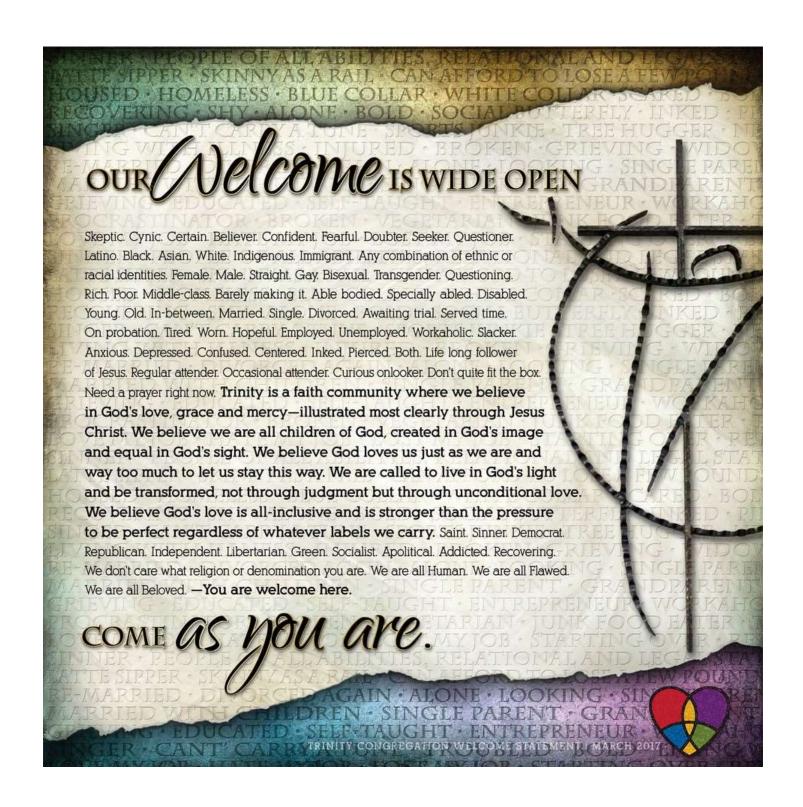
All: Bearing God's blessing to all.

THE SENDING SONG: Ubuntu (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

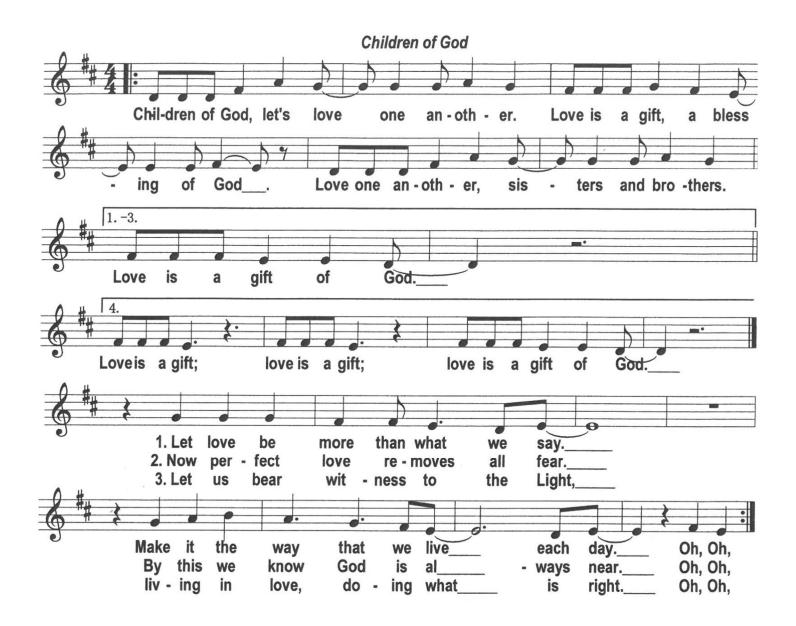


Children of God. Words and Music: James F. D. Martin. © 2006 James F. D. Martin. Used by licensed permission from Convergence Music Project. All Right Reserved.

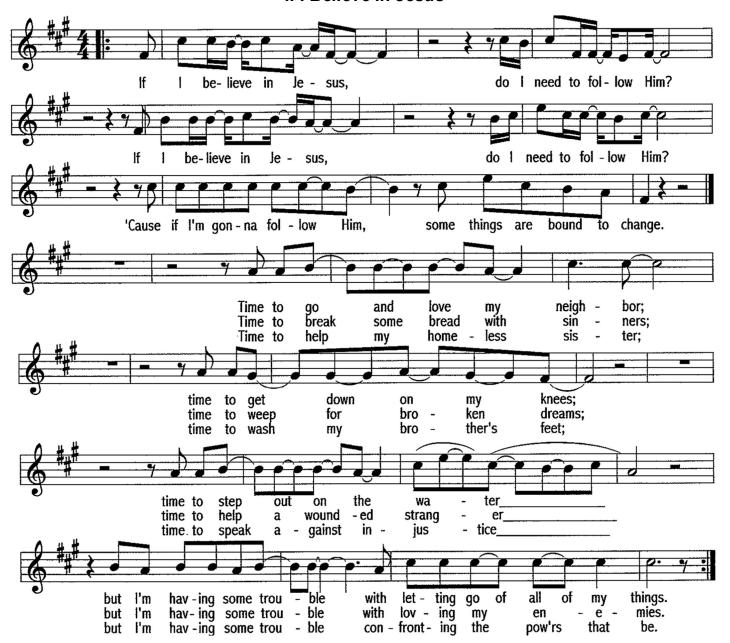
If I Believe in Jesus. Words and Music by Larry Olson. ©2003 Dakota Road Music. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.

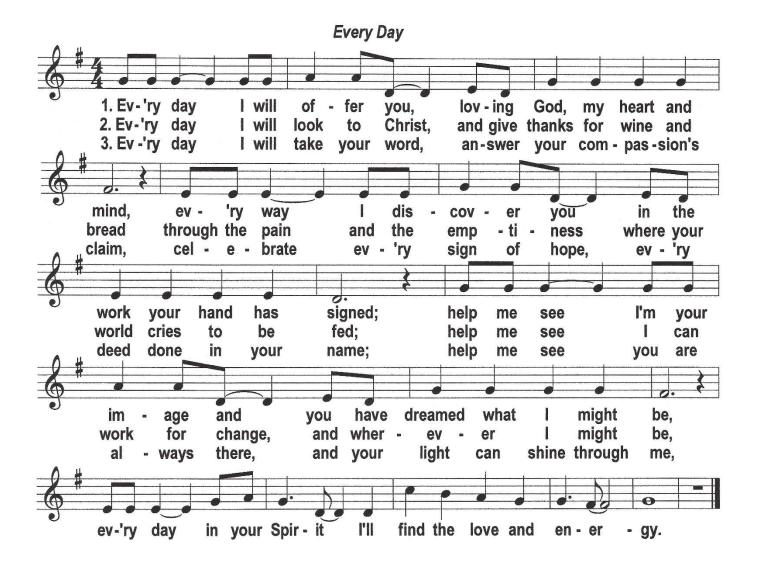
Every Day. Words Shirley Erena Murray. Music: Colin Gibson. Text© 1992 Hope Publishing Company. Music © 1993 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.

Ubuntu. Words and Music by Ken Medema. © Brier Patch Music. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.



If I Believe in Jesus





Ubuntu



Verses (echo song leader)

- 1. ... Sisters and brothers ... made for communion ... bound to each other ... one holy union ... Drawn by a vision ... drawn by desire ... drawn to the circle ... round God's holy fire,
- 2. ... Called now we follow ... Jesus our brother ... Who gathers his children ... just like a mother ... Tenderly holding ... this new creation ... Making and molding ... a new holy nation,
- ... This is our vision ... life's in the sharing ... Holding back nothing ... dreaming and daring,
 ... To live this communion ... that breaks us and binds us
 - ... Holds us and heals us ... frees us and finds us

