

Sunday, May 2nd

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements



*Call to Worship

Leader: We gather to praise and worship God,

People: the one who created us for love.

Leader: We gather to worship the true vine,

People: the one in whose love we abide.

Leader: Easter people, Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

*Hymn # 401 – Here in This Place (Gather Us In)

Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away; See in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame; Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young; our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong; Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you; Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away: Here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own; Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O Christ, you are the true vine, and you have made us your branches. In your grace, we find strength, and in your love, we are set free. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who have been freed, when we act as if the Easter story did not turn the world upside down. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who are your branches, when we forget that we are rooted in you and bound to one another by your spirit. Forgive us, O Christ, our one true vine, and teach us to abide in you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Prayer of Illumination

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Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Love Shared

Affirmation of Faith: A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,

everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,

sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,

and binds us together with all believers

in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit

who inspired the prophets and apostles

rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,

engages us through the Word proclaimed,

claims us in the waters of baptism,

feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,

and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world

the Spirit gives us courage

to pray without ceasing,

to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,

to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,

to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,

and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks

and to live holy and joyful lives,

even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,

praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.

Special Music

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your heart.

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayers of the People

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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. Amen.

The Sharing of the Meal

Prayer After Communion

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

***Hymn # 515 – I Come with Joy**

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free, the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.

Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response: Hymn # 243 – Be Not Afraid (x2)**

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Postlude

Here in This Place

Gather Us In

401



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ish-ed a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

I Come with Joy

515

Capo 3: (D) (G) (A) (D) (Bm)
 F B^b C F Dm

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris-tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has

(Asus) (Am) (G) (F#m) (D)
 Csus Cm B^b Am F

free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

(Em) (D/F#) (G) (A) (Am7) (D)
 Gm F/A B^b C Cm7 F

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com-mu - nion bread, in Christ's com-mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text affirms that Christian unity is not achievement but gift, one renewed each time we gather for the Lord's Supper. Each of us enters as an "I" and leaves as part of "we." The unadorned language of this text is well matched to the simple shape note tune that sets it here.