



Here is the Order of Worship for our online worship experience.

## “By This We Will Know: The Dance of Love”

Fourth Sunday of Easter – April 25, 2021

### ***Greeting and Welcome***

### ***Prelude***

***Call to Worship*** \**Sung Response: “Dare to Dance”* ©1989 Trisha Watts, Willow Music, Forestville, N.S.W Used and Arranged by permission for Worship Design Studio This arrangement by Chuck Bell (ASCAP) CCLI#11306163.

Easter is the unstoppable, unpredictable expression of God’s love for humankind! The call of Jesus is to live fully in the power of that love – alive in each of us. We learn about that divine love as it is embodied in the person and ministry of Jesus, the one who is compared to a good shepherd. As we look to him to learn how to love, may our hearts praise the One who raised Jesus and raises us to abundant life and love!

***Sung Response: Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,  
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,  
Dare to dance again!***

If we are to dance with abandon, we learn and follow – then we can begin to lead. We can learn the steps to the dance of love through the lead of Jesus and those who have gone before us. May we dare to dance even as we continue to learn the way of love.

**Sung Response: Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,  
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,  
Dare to dance again!**

This is the call!  
We lean into this day with the strength we have.  
**We lift up our heads to meet the day.**  
God sends out a call that will not let us go.  
**We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.**  
If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of love and set out anyway.  
**For we are called to dance again!**

**Opening Hymn of Praise** “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” UMH #140.  
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**1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

**Refrain:  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see:  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.  
(Refrain)**

**3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
(Refrain)**

## **Opening Prayer**

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –  
We know your voice, the sounds of your steps.  
Your love gathers us, urges us, encourages us.  
Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you –  
so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ.  
Be with us now, we pray. Amen.

**Anthem:** “God of Simple Things” Lyrics by Pamela Martin, Music by Lloyd Larson, Beckenhorst Press, Inc. Used with Permission.

**A Story for All Ages** (*Children’s Time*) *This week’s dreamer: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Prayer following A Story for All Ages

“We offer thanks  
**we offer thanks**  
for dreamers true  
**for dreamers true**  
for all they are  
**for all they are**  
and all they do  
**and all they do.**  
Let us become  
**let us become**  
dreamers too  
**dreamers too**  
and bring new life  
**and bring new life**  
to me and you  
**to me and you!**  
Amen!  
**Amen!**

**Hymn** “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service” UMH #581 (verses 1-3). Words: Albert F. Bayly 1961, alt. Music: Attr. to B. F. White, 1844; harm. by Ronald A. Nelson, 1978. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

**1. Lord, whose love through humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
offered mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart,  
consecrating to your purpose  
every gift that you impart.**

**2. Still Your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As, O Lord, your deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,  
use the love your Spirit kindles  
still to save and make us whole.**

**3. As we worship, grant us vision,  
till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness,  
dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens  
your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to tireless striving,  
your abundant life to share.**

***Scripture Lesson*** 1 John 3:16-18, 23-24 (*NRSV, adapted*)

We know love by this, that Christ laid down his life for us--and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees another in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. This is God's commandment, that we should believe in the name Jesus and love one another, just as Christ has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

***Sermon*** "By This We Will Know: The Dance of Love" Rev. Matthew Sergent

***Prayers of the People***

***Hymn for Stepping Out*** “They’ll Know We are Christians by Our Love” TFWS #2223 (verses 1, 2 and 4). Words and Music: Peter Scholtes © 1966 F.E.L. Publications, assigned 1991 to The Lorenz Corp. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

**1. We are one in the Spirit,  
we are one in the Lord,  
we are one in the Spirit,  
we are one in the Lord,  
and we pray that all unity  
may one day be restored:**

**Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians  
by our love, by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians  
by our love.**

**2. We will walk with each other,  
we will walk hand in hand,  
we will walk with each other,  
we will walk hand in hand,  
and together we'll spread the news  
that God is in our land:**

**Refrain:**

**4. All praise to the Father,  
from whom all things come  
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God’s only son,  
and all praise to the Spirit  
who makes us one:**

**Refrain:**

### ***Benediction***

What would your life look like  
if you sought each day to dance the dance of love?  
To dance to the rhythm of the love of God moving in our lives?  
May we hear the music of the Spirit  
and follow in the steps of Jesus  
whose love sets us free to dance with abandon.

And may the Loving God,  
Risen Christ,  
and Dancing Spirit  
fill you with all you need

for the days ahead.

And all God's people said,  
**"Amen!"**

## ***Postlude***