



# **Christ Church of Arlington**

Gathered Worship

May 14, 2023

Easter tide

## God Welcomes Us

\* Call to Worship

*Psalm 134*

Leader: Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD! Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the LORD!

**ALL: May the LORD bless you from Zion, he who made heaven and earth!**

\* Prayer of Invocation

\* Song of Praise

*10,000 Reasons*

## God Restores Us

Prayer of Confession

**ALL: Father, we are often guilty of loving the gifts that you give us while rejecting you. We love the benefits of belonging to you, yet we do not cherish and nurture the greatest gift of all: our relationship with you as your adopted sons and daughters. Sometimes we rebel against you openly and angrily, breaking your laws and running far from you. At other times we rebel against you by carefully keeping your laws, as if by our obedience we could purchase your favor, love, and generosity. God, be merciful to us, for we are lost sinners. In both our rebellion and our obedience, we love ourselves far more than we love you. Father, forgive us.**

Silent Confession of Sin

\* *Please stand (if possible)*

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Galatians 4:4-7*

Leader: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying,

**ALL: "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.**

Confession of Faith

*The Belgic Confession, Article 17*

**ALL: We believe that our good God, by marvelous divine wisdom and goodness, seeing that Adam and Eve had plunged themselves in this manner into both physical and spiritual death and made themselves completely miserable, set out to find them, though they, trembling all over, were fleeing from God. And God comforted them, promising to give them his Son, born of a woman, to crush the head of the serpent, and to make them blessed.**

\* Song of Adoration

*In Christ Alone*

Pastoral Prayer

Congregational Prayer

**ALL: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## God Nourishes Us

Scripture Reading

*Jeremiah 32:36-41 (p. 661)*

Leader: The grass withers and the flower fades,

**ALL: But the Word of our God will stand forever.**

\* Song of Preparation

*How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

Sermon

"Kingdom Character: Joy"  
*Luke 15:1-32 (pp. 874-875)*  
Rev. Billy Boyce

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Prayer of Humble Access for Holy Communion

**ALL: We do not presume to come to this, your table, O Merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy even as to gather up the crumbs from under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose eternal nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, that by faith in your dear son, Jesus Christ, our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, so that we evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

Presentation of Communion Elements

Minister: Behold! The gifts of God for the people of God! Hallelujah!

**People: Hallelujah!**

Words of Institution

## Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Minister: When we eat this meal we are reminded that we are not our own,

**ALL: But together belong to Christ, and in Christ belong to one another.**

Minister: The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**ALL: And we who are many are one in Him!** *(partake of the bread together)*

Minister: The cup that we drink is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**ALL: And we who are many are one in Him!** *(partake of the cup together)*

\* Doxology

*He Is Risen!*

\* Benediction

## **Sermon Notes**

1. Joy in searching

2. Joy in forgiving

3. Joy in restoring

## **Announcements**

### **Sunday School**

Sunday School classes continue today, 11:30-12:10. Please note that next Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> will be the final day of classes before our Sunday School programs break for the summer.

### **Ministry Appreciation Month**

May is Ministry Appreciation Month, a time when we seek to recognize all those who serve faithfully in our various ministries. Thank you to our volunteers, for the many ways your service has blessed our church community!

### **Women's Bible Studies**

Women's Bible Studies on the books of 2 Peter and Jude will meet this Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> (10AM) at the church building and Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> (7:30PM) at Madison Laton's home. Contact Melynda for more details and a study guide.

### **OrthodoXology**

Our next OrthodoXology gathering will be on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Eric Langborgh.

### **Sunday Snack Volunteers**

The diaconate is looking for a few people or families who are willing to join a rotation to bring Dunkin' Donuts and coffee to church on Sunday mornings. The process is straightforward and all expenses will be reimbursed. Volunteers can serve anywhere between once per month and once every two months. If you'd like to serve, please contact Jared.

## **Welcome to CCA!**

We hope you find rich fellowship with God and with his people this morning. As you enter worship, we'd like to make you aware of a few things:

### For All Visitors:

- After the service, please join us for coffee and doughnuts.

### For Those with Kids:

- Children of all ages are welcome to stay with their parents throughout the whole service.
- The nursery is available for infants and toddlers (through age 3).

### About Communion:

- We celebrate the Lord's Supper (or Communion) every week at CCA.
- We welcome all baptized Christians – those who are trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation and who are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel – to receive Communion with us. If this does not currently describe you, we invite you to participate in spirit by considering the things you see and hear in worship, including God's love for sinners as portrayed in this meal. If you have any questions about whether you should participate in the Lord's Supper, please talk with our Pastor or one of our elders.
- For parents: to receive communion, a child must have been baptized and formally received as a communing member by the Session of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong.
- Our communion bread is gluten-free, and we offer both wine and juice. Wine is in the outer ring; juice is in the inner ring.

## **Staff Contacts**

Rev. Billy Boyce, Lead Pastor ([billy@ccapca.org](mailto:billy@ccapca.org))

Rev. Jimmy Choi, Associate Pastor ([jimmy@ccapca.org](mailto:jimmy@ccapca.org))

Melynda Boyce, Director of Women's Ministry ([melynda@ccapca.org](mailto:melynda@ccapca.org))