

Worship Program for First Church in Pembroke

Sunday April 23rd, 2023
(2nd Sunday after Easter)

PRELUDE:

MEDITATION PRAYER:

"The Lord reigns; let the people tremble. He sits between the cherubim; let the earth be moved. The Lord is great in Zion, and he is high above all the people. Let them praise thy great and awe-inspiring name, for it is holy." (Psalm 99:1-3)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Meet & Greet:

CALL TO CONTEMPLATION:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

P: Children of the Risen Lord, on such a beautiful Sunday in worship, do you still doubt the resurrection story?

C: We are believers of the Word, and we hold steadfast to the proof of the empty tomb.

P: Children of the Risen Lord, and when you pray, do you ask the Lord for guidance and wisdom to know his truth?

C: Yes, we do! For it is written: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed but rightly divides the Word of truth."

P: Wonderful people, you have spoken correctly because God's approval is not earned but received.

C: We will take a little more time to think, a little more time to pray, and a little more time to listen to that gentle voice within us who brings the anointing and peace to our lives.

ALL: As we mature spiritually, may we be blessed coming in and be blessed going out. With our hearts united, let us be like a huge generous heart that pleases God. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: #478 (Red Hymnal) "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

Lead us, heavenly Father, to understand your will and our purpose in this world. Cleanse us from all perplexities, and illuminate our souls to feel great joy and to experience harmony in our lives. Let your habitation be our habitation. For a moment, we pondered, and we thought about the days when we were turned away from your truth, but today we speak your name in boldness. We have been instructed, and we repented. Today in worship, we inquire of you to lead us to the paths of righteousness, just like when you had mercy on Ephraim and extended your everlasting embrace. We pray this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

(Excerpts from Jeremiah 31:19-20)

HYMN: #459 (Black Hymnal) "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 1:21-26

SERMON: 'The Criteria for Discipleship' (by Minister Miriam Theodore)

OFFERTORY INVITATION:

"Behold I will bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, and, with them, the blind and the lame, the women with child and her who travails with child together; a great company shall return here."

(Jeremiah 31:8)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

MUSICAL RESPONSE

CLOSING HYMN: #363 (Red Hymnal) "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE: