

SEEKING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Welcome Rev. J. Chris Michael

Prelude *What Wondrous Love is This* arr. Rouse

Ann Jeannette Pierce, piano From Wm. Walker's *Southern Harmony*

*Call to Worship

One: We move towards the City and the Cross;

All: uncertainty grips us, as it does the disciples.

One: We know that enthusiasm will turn to rejection;

All: What will it take to keep our commitment strong?

One: The powers of evil and self-serving are ready for us.

All: Will we have the courage to stay faithful?

One: The sacrifice of God's Loved One appears inevitable.

All: Are we ready to be worthy of the name, "Christian"?

*Hymn *Lift High the Cross* 108

*Invocation and Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")

Children's Blessing Rev. Michael

First Scripture John 11:1-16

Response One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Michael

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Message in Music *Hope of the World*

Taylor Mahlinger, Mackenzie Mahlinger, vocal

Second Scripture John 11:17-45

Response One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *In the Face of Death* Rev. Michael

Invitation to Discipleship

*Hymn *If You Will Trust in God to Guide You (vs. 1, 3)* 565

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

Preparation for the Offering

Offertory *Were You There?* arr. Rouse

Traditional American Melody

*Doxology and Presentation of Gifts (Page 46)

*Dedication Prayer

RENEWING THE COVENANT IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

We are one in Christ, let everyone share in this communion without regard for denominational affiliation. You are invited to take the cup and bread after your prayers.

Invitation to Communion and Words of Institution Rev. Michael

Communion Hymn *Come, Share the Lord (vs. 1, 2)* 408

Prayer of Thanksgiving Rev. Michael

Communion Music *Down at the Cross* John Stockton; arr. Shackley

Serving the Bread and Cup

GOING IN PEACE TO LOVE AND TO SERVE

*Benediction Rev. Michael

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

*Congregational Benediction *Lift High the Cross (refrain only)* 108

John 11:17-45

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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First Christian Church

Owensboro, Kentucky



Raising of Lazarus
Duccio, di Buoninsegna 1319

“Our mission is to manifest Christ’s love by empowering all to compassionate service.”

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