

GATHERING

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation, for indeed we have tasted that the Lord is good.

You are chosen, a royal priesthood,

a holy nation, God's own people,

in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called you out of darkness into marvelous light.

Once we were not a people, but now we are God's people;

once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy.

Let us worship God.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

*HYMN #457

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

TOULON

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*SUMMARY OF THE LAW

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

BE NOT AFRAID

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

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

Choir and congregation sing several times

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60 (p. 126 New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth. My times are in your hands; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14 (p. 108 New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
SERMON

*HYMN #361

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(see insert)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Christ is All

Dave & Jean Perry

*DOXOLOGY

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

EASTER HYMN

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING

(see insert)

*HYMN #104

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

HYMN TO JOY

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE



**ORDER OF WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

May 14, 2017
Presbyterian Church in Needham