

GATHERING

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Risen Christ, may we who in baptism die to sin, rise again to new life and find our
place in your living body. May the new covenant sealed in your blood bring healing
and reconciliation to this wounded world. Alleluia. You are risen. We are risen
with you. Praise and glory to the living God. **Amen.**

WELCOME

*HYMN #118

The Day of Resurrection

LANCASHIRE

*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 17:22-31 (p. 137 New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66:8-20

Bless our God, you peoples; make the voice of praise to be heard.

God holds our souls in life, and will not allow our feet to slip.

For you, O God, have proved us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

You brought us into the snare; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; but you brought us out
into a place of refreshment.

**I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows,
which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.**

I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.

**Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what
God has done for me.**

I cried out with my mouth, and God's praise was on my tongue.

If I had found evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

but in truth God has heard me and attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld steadfast love from me.

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21 (p. 109 New Testament)
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
SERMON

*HYMN #495

We Know That Christ Is Raised

ENGELBERG

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

(see insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

OFFERING
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Thou Art God

Lionel Bourne

*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 #129

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us

EBENZER

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE



**ORDER OF WORSHIP
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 21, 2017
Presbyterian Church in Needham**