



welcome  
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE



# THE GIFT OF WELCOME

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Neil Parker  
Sixth Sunday of Easter - 22 May 2022

# MEDITATION & PRELUDE

Andrea Schneider, organ



# VCC CHOIR



**WELCOME & CANDLE LIGHTING**



# OPENING HYMN - CH 259

## *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the Living God,

Fall afresh on me,

Spirit of the Living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.

Spirit of the Living God,

Fall afresh on me.



**SPECIAL PEOPLE**

# FIRST READING - *Acts 16:9-15*

Read by David Corcoran

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis.

From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God.

The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

# SECOND READING: *John 14:23-29*

Read by David Corcoran

Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He

When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?” “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.”

At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,

# **GUEST CHOIR THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL OF VIENNA CHOIR**



**SERMON:**  
***I GET BY WITH A LITTLE  
HELP FROM MY FRIENDS***



# RESPONSIVE HYMN - CH 487

## *Help Us to Help One Another*

1 Help us accept each other  
as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother,  
each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us  
and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted  
and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,  
as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human  
and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people,  
for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them  
or as they may become.

3 Let your acceptance change us,  
so that we may be moved  
in living situations  
to do the truth in love,  
to practice your acceptance  
until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness  
and laughter's healing art.

4 Lord, for today's encounters  
with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance,  
for righteousness and bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing,  
new hands for holding on;  
renew us with your Spirit;  
Lord, free us, make us one!

OFFERING

*Offering*  
WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

*Andrea Schneider, organ*

# DOXOLOGY - CH 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above ye heavenly host: Praise  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen



A high-angle, low-key photograph of a diverse group of people holding hands in a circle. The individuals are looking upwards, and the lighting is bright and warm, creating a sense of hope and unity. The word "PRAYERS" is centered in the image in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

# PRAYERS

Photo by Delain Johnson([Unsplash](#))



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# CLOSING HYMN - CH 530

## *I've Got Peace Like a River*

1 I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

2 I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

3 I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean in my soul.

# A PRAYER AS I PUT ON MY MASK

Creator, as I prepare to go into the world,  
help me to see the sacrament in the  
wearing of this cloth - let it be "an outward  
sign of an inward grace" - a tangible and  
visible way of living love for my  
neighbours, as I love myself.

**Christ, since my lips will be covered,  
uncover my heart, that people would see  
my smile in the crinkles around my eyes.  
Since my voice may be muffled, help me to  
speak clearly, not only with my words,  
but with my actions.**

**Holy Spirit,** As the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully - and full of care - to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and each breath that it holds, be filled with your love.

In your Name and in that love, I pray.

May it be so. May it be so.



Sino  
Amen!  
Amen!

# BLESSING

Go in peace to love  
and serve the  
Lord.

Thanks be to God



POSTLUDE



Andrea Schneider, organ