



*I Am*

the Resurrection and the Life  
gentle and humble in heart  
with you always  
the Bread of Life  
the Light of the world  
from above  
the Gate  
the Good Shepherd  
the Way, and the Truth, and the Life  
in my Father  
the True Vine

*With You.*

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 2, 2021**

**GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD**

**Prelude**                      In Springtime                      Ralph Kinder

**Introit**                      Shout for Joy                      Jim Taylor

*Shout for joy to the Lord all the earth. Burst into jubilant song with music. Make music to the Lord with the harp, and the sound of singing, with the trumpets, and the blast of the ram's horn. Shout for joy before the Lord, our King.*

**\*\*Call to Worship** (responsively)

Leader: I am the Vine, you are the branches.

**People: Abide in me and I will abide in you.**

Leader: Whoever abides in me will bear abundant fruit.

**People: Apart from God you can do nothing!**

Leader: If you abide in my word, my word will abide in you.

**People: Ask anything of God, and you will receive it!**

Leader: Through grace, we grow.

**People: Through growth, we bear fruit and become Christ's disciples.**

## 35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

✓ 1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly  
 ✓ 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so  
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his  
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -  
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

**\*\*Hymn**

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

**Prayer of Confession** (unison)

**God of grace, in Jesus Christ, you have made us your friends. We confess that we have neglected your friendship in our day-to-day dealings. We have failed to welcome your love, and failed to love others who need your love. We have closed ourselves off to letting your spirit instruct and guide us.**

**Have mercy on us. Renew our minds by your truth which sets us free. Renew our hearts by your grace which makes all things new. Renew our souls by your love which heals and makes us whole; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Silent Confession**

**Declaration of Pardon** (responsively)

Leader: Spread the message to all: Christ is alive!

**People: As we part company with sin, we receive mercy and forgiveness.**

Leader: Share the good news: All people are reconciled to God!

**People: Through words and deeds, our lives witness to God's redeeming grace.**

Leader: Proclaim the holy message: God is love!

**People: We live to share the good news that love will raise the dead!**

**\*\*Gloria Patri**

#581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

**\*\*Passing of the Peace** (responsively)

Leader: The good news is to all those who are near and far away.

**People: The good news is to all who are neighbors and strangers.**

Leader: Because Christ loves us, we are members of the household of faith. We are one in the Spirit—we are family.

**People: Because Christ calls us, we are citizens of the realm of God. We are living out God's precious kingdom.**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## **PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

**Prayer of Illumination** (unison)

**Almighty God, your son Jesus 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 in his risen life; that we may enjoy you and live forever. Amen.**

**Scripture Lesson**            1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

<sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> God's love was revealed among us in this way:

God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup> We love<sup>[b]</sup> because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**Scripture Lesson**                      John 15:1-8

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more

fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**Anthem**                      I Am the Vine                      Mark Patterson  
*As Jesus spoke to His disciples He said, "Do not be afraid. I give you peace. Through me the love of God abides in you each day. I am the vine, you are the branches; abide in me as I abide in you, and you will bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit; the love of God will shine forth in you. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Remain in me and keep my commands. And this I command you: love one another that your joy may be full."*

**Sermon**

“The God-Bearing Life”  
Rev. David Neff, preaching

# I Come with Joy

515

Capo 3: (D)  
F

(G)  
B<sup>7</sup>

(A)  
C

(D)  
F

(Bm)  
Dm



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has

(Asus) (Am)  
Csus Cm

(G)  
B<sup>7</sup>

(F#m)  
Am

(D)  
F



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in  
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

(Em)  
Gm

(D/A#)  
F/A

(G)  
B<sup>7</sup>

(A)  
C

(Am7)  
Cm7

(D)  
F



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**\*\*Hymn**

I Come With Joy

**\*\*Affirmation of Faith (unison) The Apostles' Creed**  
**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Solo** Let Us Love One Another Arnold Sherman  
Vince Wallace, soloist

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love comes from God, and all who know and call upon his name are children of our Lord. Beloved, this is what love is; not that we love God, but that he loves us and sent his only Son to free us from our sin. How can we not know our God? How can we not love our God? He sent his only Son to die for all our sins. Is there greater love than this? Beloved, if this is how God loves, then we should love all men, and live in perfect harmony with all, and God will live in us. Let us love one another.*

## Prayers of the People

### Prayer Response

Love Is The Spirit of This Church      Thomas Matthews  
*Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law.  
This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to  
seek the truth, and to help one another.*

## **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER** **THE COVENANT OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE**

### **The Invitation**

This is the Lord's table. The Lord Jesus invites us to share in this joyful feast. From east and west, from north and south, people will come and take their places at the banquet in the kingdom of God.

### **The Prayer of Thanksgiving** (responsively)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is our greatest duty and our joy, at all times and in all places, to give you thanks and praise, holy Creator, heavenly Redeemer. We give you thanks that in the creation of the world, when you laid the earth's foundation and set its cornerstone in place, the morning stars sang in chorus and the angels of God shouted for joy. By the power of your Spirit, you made the universe: by the might of your Word, you gave us life.

We give thanks that in the new creation, you gave your Son to raise us up, when the human race had fallen; you claimed us for your own people; that we might proclaim the glorious deeds of him who called us out of darkness into this marvelous light. By the life of your Spirit, you fill the hearts of the faithful: by the light of your Word, you give us strength and love.

Therefore, with your people of all places and times, with the whole company of heaven, we proclaim your greatness and sing your praise to the angels song

**Sanctus** (sung)

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Lord Jesus Christ, we bless you for your incarnation among us, your holy birth, your perfect life on earth, your suffering for us; and your triumph over death. For your ascension to the Father and your gift of the Holy Spirit. Lord Christ, we yearn for you to return again.

Remembering his work and passion, and pleading his eternal sacrifice, we follow his example and obey his commands.

**Acclamation** (sung)

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen; Christ will come  
again.**

**Christ has died, Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Send down your Holy Spirit to bless us and these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break may be for us the communion of the body of Christ and the cup of blessing which we bless the communion of the blood of Christ; that we, receiving them, may be made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits to nourish us and help us grow in grace, to the glory of your holy name.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer** (“debts”)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup  
Concluding Prayer

## **BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD**

### **\*\*Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

### **\*\*The Charge and the Benediction**

#### **\*\*Benediction**

May the Grace of God Go With You     Anna Laura Page  
*May the grace of God go with you, may the love of Christ surround you, may God's mighty angels guard and give you peace. May God's pardon release you, may the Spirit enfold you, may God's mighty angels guard and give you peace. Amen.*

#### **Postlude**

The Church's One Foundation

arr. Janet Linker

#### **Thanks to Those Assisting in Our Service**

Liturgists: Pastor James Acquaah and Brian Louis

Livestream Operator: Tracy Cargo

## 611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-lect thy rays;  
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.



Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pen-ing to the sun a - bove.  
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.  
 Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way.  
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash - ing sea,  
 Ev - er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife.



Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 chant - ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.  
 Joy - ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.



## **OUR MISSION AND VISION**

**Mission Statement:** We are a diverse and inclusive community bringing people to Christ through the power of service, education, hospitality and compassion.

**Vision Statement:** Second Presbyterian Church seeks to be a diverse, vibrant and passionate Christ-centered community of hospitality and outreach actively serving the South Loop, the city of Chicago, and the world. We accomplish this through inspirational worship in our historic sanctuary, educational ministry to all ages, and the power of compassionate service to our neighbors.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Worship**

Welcome to Second Presbyterian Church. All are welcome regardless of ethnicity, economic group or sexual orientation to share together in the joy and power of God's love in Jesus Christ.

We open for in-person worship. Worship is live-streamed on our website [2ndPresbyterian.org](http://2ndPresbyterian.org) each Sunday morning. Join us at 11 a.m. for the worship. The sanctuary doors will open at 10:30 a.m.

If you are new to Second Presbyterian Church, please sign a blue visitor's card and leave your email address as you exit the sanctuary.

Second Church is a praying congregation! Please sign a yellow prayer card and note any prayer requests so that we may pray with you and for you.

We are taking prayer requests. You can submit them by clicking this link <https://forms.gle/72RzSMc9tAA7y5st8> so that we can pray with you and for you. All prayer requests will go to Pastor Neff and our Office Administrator Ashley McLean. There is an option to mark whether or not your prayer is private.

### **Bible Studies:**

We welcome you to join our Sunday morning and Tuesday afternoon Bible Study Classes. If you would like the curriculum, please contact the church office. The conference call number: (312) 248-0036. No PIN required.

- **Sunday morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.**
- **Tuesday afternoons Philippians 1:30 p.m.**

**Alpha to Omega Bible Discussion Group:** The Alpha to Omega Discussion group is in the New Testament. Meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month at 6 p.m. Please use this phone number: (312) 248-0036 (No pin is required). For more information contact Flea Parker at [Flea@golden2.net](mailto:Flea@golden2.net) or (210) 861-6988.

### **RIM (Recreation and Interest Ministries) Committee:**

**Book Group:** Our next book of discussion is The Sultan of Byzantium by Selcuk Altun. Please email Ann Belletire if you would like to join this very lively discussion group at [Annabelle620e@aol.com](mailto:Annabelle620e@aol.com).

**Time:** May 16<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 9:30 a.m. central time

**Join Zoom Meeting:** [Click Here](#)

Or Call: (312) 626-6799

**Meeting ID: 868 6496 0108**

**Passcode: 726317**

**Support Our Mission and Ministry:** The work of the church is critical in this time of crisis. Our ministry continues to grow in creative and innovative ways. You may now give your offering on the Second Presbyterian Church website at [www.2ndpresbyterian.org](http://www.2ndpresbyterian.org). Look for the “Donate” button and scroll down, following the prompts. Thank you for your faithful giving!

**Connect with Us:** Dr. Neff’s sermons, poetry and reflections on ministry can be found in his blog: [www.davidneff.me](http://www.davidneff.me). To obtain copies of sermons, please contact the church office.

**PRAYER REQUESTS** (please pray for the following)

**Alice Sam** – for employment

**Nate Battle** – continued prayer for Elaine Owen; Enshella and Tenosha; for myself; God’s blessings

**Ann and Mike Belletire** – Patrick Connors

**Pastor Neff** – the Presbyterian Synod of Cameroon; for all pastors, elders and churches living under persecution



*Praymaker* was started by Paige & Peter Braxton of Second Presbyterian as a way to share the healing power of hope and prayer with others.

*Praymaker* is a website where people can request a prayer from a spiritual leader of their choice and have it sent to someone in their lives. Our lives are filled with celebration, sorrow, and hope, and in these moments, the right words are sometimes hard to find. *Praymaker* is personalized prayer delivered.



## How it works?

- 1) Request a prayer on [www.praymaker.com](http://www.praymaker.com)
- 2) Spiritual leader creates a personalized prayer.
- 3) The audio is texted to your loved one.



## How to participate?

Praymaker is looking for community members interested in joining Paige & Peter in this ministry. There are many ways to help and support.

To learn more e-mail us at:

**info@praymaker.com**

Visit: **www.praymaker.com**



## SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Diverse. Inclusive. Community. Engaging. Passionate*

2ndPresbyterian.org

1936 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60616

### The Session

Reverend Dr. David M. Neff, Pastor

Darlene Pollard, Clerk

#### 2021

Dr. Cliff Crawford  
Anthony  
Ochiabutor  
Vicki Reynolds

#### 2022

Darlene Pollard  
Howard Tiffen  
Amy Haack

#### 2023

Lisa Armstrong  
Karen Ashley-  
Bowman  
Ozzie Kinnard

### The Board of Deacons

Jane Tiffen, President

Jeremy Nichols, Secretary

#### 2021

Denise Conway  
Catherine  
Soberekon  
Tracy Cargo

#### 2022

Jeremy Nichols  
Francis Osazuwa  
Jane Tiffen

#### 2023

Nate Battle  
Sharon Singer  
Margaret Robinson

### Church Staff

Reverend Dr. David M. Neff, Pastor

Michael Shawgo, Music Director

Ashley McLean, Office Administrator

Marco Alberto, Sexton

Brian Louis, Seminarian

### Second Presbyterian Quartet

Sherry Watkins, soprano  
Corinne Wallace-Crane, alto

John Concepcion, tenor  
Vince Wallace, bass