

Acts 5:27-41

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.”

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.” When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them.

But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, respected by all the people, stood up and ordered the men to be put outside for a short time. Then he said to them, “Fellow Israelites, consider carefully what you propose to do to these men. For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him; but he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and disappeared. After him Judas the Galilean rose up at the time of the census and got people to follow him; he also perished, and all who followed him were scattered. So in the present case, I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone; because if this plan or this undertaking is of human origin, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them—in that case you may even be found fighting against God!” They were convinced by him, and when they had called in the apostles, they had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. As they left the council, they rejoiced that they were considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name.

The Lord is our strength and our song
THE LORD HAS BECOME OUR SALVATION

Do not look for rest in any pleasure, because you were not created for pleasure: you were created for joy. And if you do not know the difference between pleasure and joy you have not yet begun to live.

Thomas Merton

In spending time with this passage I get a sense of barely knowing where to begin.

This text is alive with all manner of aliveness.

Which is why it's such an appropriate reading for Eastertide, and Earth Sunday as well.

Peter and the apostles here are alive with all manner of aliveness.

There is nothing more compelling to humanity than this.

Nothing more renewing and refreshing to humanity than this.

It's what makes for great art, great music, great writing, great leadership, great people, great ministry.

To be alive with all manner of aliveness is freshness, newness, creativity, joy, courage.

To be alive in this way is to be fed by an inner spring of the Divine, the Creative Source, ever renewing itself, deathless.

It's not quite resurrection, but it's an aliveness that is of the same deathless source.

And it is so sure of itself, that it defies boundaries, categories, traditions.

"I will paint it this way, sing it this way, teach it this way, preach it this way, write it this way, design it this way, I have to. Ridicule me, disparage me, threaten me, demean me, dehumanize me. I am alive with all manner of aliveness." Every ground breaking (get it??) artist or writer or saint has always said this ---whether naming the name of Jesus or not in their aliveness. It's the same aliveness whether the name of Jesus is attached to it or not. It's bigger than the church but when the church is fully alive in this aliveness there is nothing more beautiful, nothing more refreshing, nothing more life-giving to the world than this.

This aliveness is exuberantly vivacious and determined. No container, no tomb, can hold it.

What we are seeing here in this text is the bud of the Church begin to burst open for the first time in the endless and deathless sunshine of a post resurrection world. From that first bud has come a flower garden beautifying every corner of the world with all manner of aliveness.

What I am feeling here as I read this text is the essence of what it's feeling like for Peter and the apostles to be alive in a post resurrection world. What I am feeling here is what it's possible for us all in the church to feel like in a post resurrection world.

Alive with all manner of aliveness----it's an aliveness of God's conceiving, Gamaliel was right, there was no containing it then, and there is no containing it now.

HE IS RISEN!

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

April 28, 2019

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

Resurrection Bells

Lighting of the Candles

"May God show us the light of his countenance and come to us." Psalm 67

This is your garden Creator God

A THING OF BEAUTY BEYOND UNDERSTANDING, A POEM THAT IS BEING WRITTEN

Not in words but in colors, wind's whisper, soaring bird

GENTLE RAIN, SUNLIGHT'S WARMTH, GIFTED TO US IN LOVE

21 Let the Whole Creation Cry

Sharing Christ's Peace

"I'll Fly Away Medley" STRUM

The Morning Prayer and Musical Response

Silence

"I desire to be without glory...unknown to any creature." Therese of Lisieux

Children's Circle

All children thru 5th grade are welcome to come forward. A small outreach offering will be collected for our money jar. Following this time of sharing and prayer, children may attend their very own

"Worship and Wonder" time together in our classroom annex. Child care is offered for infants and toddlers but they are also welcome in the sanctuary.

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious Beloved, help us to welcome the light and walk in it always

SHOW US THE WAY WE MUST GO TO ETERNAL DAY, AMEN

THE LESSON ACTS 5: 27-41

The Meditation "All Manner of Aliveness" Rev. Rob Carr

Risen Christ, Loving Counselor, we offer ourselves into your hands, that we may live fully into your Life. May we not be bearers of disharmony, arrogant and greedy. But teach us to stand firm in the face of oppression and injustice. Even though fears rise up, may our eyes remain focused on you. For in your graciousness and wisdom we delight, as you ever enfold us in the power of your love.

Amen.

Silent and spoken personal prayers of thanksgiving confession, intercession

The Offering

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

714 For the Fruit of All Creation

Ever Living God, who, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death
BRINGING LIFE AND IMMORTALITY TO LIGHT
Grant us to abide in his presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory
NOT TO US, O LORD, NOT TO US, BUT TO YOUR NAME GIVE GLORY

Welcome to the Table
The Words of Institution

Though there are shadows and worries
YOU HAVE PLACED YOUR WORD IN US TO BE A LAMP TO OUR FEET
You have given your Spirit like a bright guiding star
You fill us with your love as glorious as the sun
EVERY DARKNESS IS OVERCOME WITH LIGHT

The Communion Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, amen.

Following the Lord's Prayer, please come forward by rows to receive the loaf and the cup.
The cup is non-alcoholic by choice of the congregation
Gluten free crackers are available on the table for those who prefer this option
Children also celebrate communion weekly as part of "Worship and Wonder"

"A Place in the Choir" STRUM

Wondrous God, we thank you with all our hearts
FOR YOU HAVE DELIVERED US FROM THE GRAVE

TO OUR GUESTS-----WELCOME!

**SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE
WE WALK HUMBLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY**

We are delighted to include you today. Your presence and participation is a gift to us all. We hope you experience among us the warm spirit of our family of faith and the gracious touch of Christ upon your life. Refreshments and welcoming conversation are available after worship in the Community Room just down the hall. More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via Facebook and these websites

www.nocckc.org www.kcdisciples.org www.disciples.org

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

THIS WEEK

ANIMAL BLESSING FOLLOWS WORSHIP—SOUTH LAWN

Monday 6PM Troop 900
Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group
Tuesday 6PM Pack 900
Wednesday 7PM Music Ministry
Thursday 6PM Girl Scouts
Saturday 745AM Men's Breakfast at Kate's
Saturday 9AM Centering Prayer
Saturday 7PM Movies and Munchies
SATURDAY IS INTERNATIONAL LABYRINTH DAY
Come walk our labyrinth or attend a labyrinth event at Precious Blood Center
11AM-2PM pbrenewalcenter.org

NEXT SUNDAY WELCOME BILL TAMMEUS TO NORTH OAK
Vital Conversation led by David Nelson at 9AM---all are welcome
Mr. Tammeus will preach at 1015AM

UPCOMING

YOU, ME AND THE ENNEAGRAM MAY 11, 16, 23, SIGN UP IN ENTRYWAY

GRADUATION SUNDAY MAY 19

JEFF NUNN PIANO STUDIO SPRING RECITAL MAY 19 130PM

JULY 22-23 DISCIPLES GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN DES MOINES

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Adults and children with questions and interest in Baptism this summer---
Be in touch with Rob