Participants:

Message: Rev. Chong

Prayer: Mark

Spoken Liturgists: Bill, Nel

Guitarist: Mark

Singers: Mark, Judi

Drums: Luke

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER: BIBLICAL RACIAL RECONCILIATION**

**GOD GATHERS US FOR WORSHIP**

Prelude: Instrumental

**Welcome and God’s Greeting - Mark**

Song: “Yours is the Glory” (Tune: *Lift up Your Hearts* 187)

Yours is the glory resurrected One
Yours the final victory God’s eternal Son
Now the angel greets You
Sweeping through death's night
Moves the stone that guards You
Floods the grave with light

Yours is the glory resurrected One
Yours the final victory God's eternal Son

Fear flies before Him He whom we adore
Once death's helpless victim lives for evermore
Prince of Peace our victory
Life and strength are here
Flooding us with glory
No we shall not fear

Yours is the glory resurrected One
Yours the final victory God's eternal Son

**Confession (Bill):**  shortened from the Belhar Confession, a Reformed Confessional statement rooted in the struggle against apartheid in Southern Africa:

**1. We believe**in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

**2. We believe**in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. **We believe**

* that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another
* that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ;
* that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin
* that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted
* that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active

 **Prayer (Nel):** “This prayer is called *Hanto Yo*.*Hanto Yo* means “clear the way” in the Lakota language.

God of surprises,
you call us
from the narrowness of our traditions
to new ways of being church,
from the captivities of our culture to
creative witness for justice,
from the smallness of our horizons
to the bigness of your vision.

***Hanto Yo*!** Clear the way in us, your people,
that we might call others to freedom
and renewed faith.

(Bill) Jesus, wounded healer,
you call us
from preoccupation with our own histories and hurts
to daily tasks of peacemaking,
from privilege and protocol
to partnership and pilgrimage,
from isolation and insularity
to inclusive community.

***Hanto Yo*!** Clear the way in us, your people,
That we might call others to
wholeness and integrity.

(Nel) Holy, transforming Spirit,
you call us
from fear to faithfulness,
from clutter to clarity,
from a desire to control to deeper trust,
from the refusal to love to a readiness to risk.

***Hanto Yo*!** Clear the way in us, your people,
that we might all know the beauty and power
and danger of the gospel.

Song: “The City Is Alive, O God” (*Lift up Your Hearts* 278, vss 1, 2; *LUYH* 53, vs 18; *LUYH* 69, Refrain)

The city is alive, O God,
with sound of hustling feet,
with rapid change and flashing lights
that pulse through every street;
but oft there’s inhumanity
behind the bright facade,
and throngs with empty, hungering hearts
cry out for help, O God.

Is it your will, O loving God,
that races live in strife,
that loneliness and greed and hate
should mark a city’s life?
Do you desire one person’s wealth
to keep another poor?
Must crime and slums and lust abound?
O Lord, is there no cure?

Yet still in present, troubled days
we seek to hear God’s voice,
and in the face of our distress,
find reason to rejoice.
Grant us the wisdom to discern
through faith who we should be—
a fallen race, restored through grace,
a captive world set free.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

**GOD GIVES US HIS WORD**

Scriptures: Ephesians 2:11-20, Revelation 7:9-10, Colossians 1:15-20, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

Sermon: “Biblical Racial Reconciliation”

**GOD INVITES OUR RESPONSE**

Song: “Break Dividing Walls”

There is a place of commanded blessing

Where Christians in unity dwell

A place where anointing oil is flowing

Where we live as one

Father we join with the prayer of Jesus

As You are so let us be one

Joined together in unity and purpose

All for the love of Your Son

We will break dividing walls

We will break dividing walls

We will break dividing walls

In the name of Your Son

We will break dividing walls

We will break dividing walls

And we will be one

You have called us to be a body

You have called us as friends

Joined together in the bond of the Spirit

Unto the end

Father we join with the prayer of Jesus

As You are so let us be one

Joined together in unity and purpose

All for the love of Your Son

We will break dividing walls

We will break dividing walls

We will break dividing walls

In the name of Your Son

We will break dividing walls

We will break dividing walls

And we will be one

We will break dividing walls

We will break dividing walls

We will break dividing walls

In the name of Your Son

We will break dividing walls

We will break dividing walls

And we will be one

We will be one

Yes we will be one

**Prayer of Confession (Nel)**

O God of love, you gave us the gift of peoples—

of cultures, races, and colours,

to love and be loved by,

to care and to be cared for,

to share our lives with.

Today you ask us to suffer with others.

But so often we hide ourselves in fear.

Racial strife, hatred, and violence fill the earth.

Your gospel calls for reconciliation.
Forgive us, O God of love, and reconcile us to yourself and to one another.
Teach us, O Creator God of love, that the earth and all its fullness are yours, the world and those who dwell in it.

**Hear God’s words of assurance (Bill)**

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**GOD SENDS US OUT TO SERVE**

**Offering Information - Mark**

**Prayers of the People**

**God Blesses Us - Mark**

Instrumental music

“Yours is the Glory,” Words: Alan Gaunt | Edmond Louis Budry. © Stainer & Bell Ltd (Admin. by Hope Publishing Company)

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout,” Words: Rory Cooney (b. 1952), © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

“The City Is Alive, O God,” Words: William W. Reid, Jr., alt. © 1969 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company

“Song of the Prophets,” Words: Michael Morgan © Faith Alive Christian Resources

“Break Dividing Walls”

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