May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, Idaho

Bill Love, Elder

Annie Welle, Pianist

Mickie Quinn, Video

Start the Camera, then OPENING MUSIC

RING THE BELL, WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON THIS SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

INTRODUCTIONS

*Good morning and welcome to the First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint. My name is Bill Love and I will be leading today’s service as Pastor Andy is away. Assisting with the service are Annie Welle, playing the piano, and Mickey Quinn implementing the miracle of video technology.*

*For several weeks now, our services have been conducted in an empty sanctuary and broadcast live on Facebook and posted on our church website at* [*www.fpcsandpoint.com*](http://www.fpcsandpoint.com) *. And that will be the case for next Sunday’s service on May 24th. However, we will gather in-person for the first time since mid-March on Sunday, May 31. That also happens to be Pentecost Sunday. Rest assured that we are following all recommended guidelines as we welcome you to our sanctuary to worship.*

*As Christians, we call ourselves an Easter People. We celebrate not only Easter Sunday in recognition of a risen Christ, but we continue the celebration for seven Sundays followed by Pentecost. The symbolic icons of Easter Sunday – the Easter egg representing an empty tomb and the Easter lily reminding us of a risen savor, have long-since been forgotten in our normally fast-forward lives. In his book titled Ancient-Future Time, Robert Webber commented, “the essential theme of Easter cannot be communicated in a day. It takes a season.” Therefore, we acknowledge today as the sixth Sunday of Easter by proclaiming “Christ has risen! Christ has risen, indeed.” We will remind ourselves of this by reciting Pastor Andy’s slightly revised Call to Worship from Easter Sunday:*

CALL TO WORSHIP

*On Easter Sunday, six weeks ago, we celebrated Christ rising from the tomb. Jesus died, Christ arose, and God continues to confront our fear, calling us to courageously trust the creative power of God who transforms suffering into joy, death into life, and hesitation into hope. As we face uncertainty and what seems like emptiness, Jesus comes in peace. Christ is in our midst! Let us worship God!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Great and loving God, your will for us in Jesus is the peace that the world cannot give; your abiding gift is the Counselor that Christ promised. Calm our troubled hearts and dispel our fears during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic. Keep us steadfast in love and faithful to your word. Grant this through Jesus Christ, who lives with you now and always, in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen*

The Peace of Christ be with you.

(And also with you). Thanks be to God!

SCRIPTURE READING: John 14:15-21

WORDS OF WITNESS

MUSIC

OFFERING

INTRO: Financial giving can be sent to 417 N. Fourth Ave, or online at the church website: [www.fpcsandpoint.org](http://www.fpcsandpoint.org) It is important for us to give from ourselves. Thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

PRAYER: Shall we pray? As Jesus lives in our hearts, O God, you invite us to give from the gifts we receive; we share our thanks, claim our freedom, and help share your love in the world. Holy God, bless the giving and the receiving of these, your gifts. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*We are an Easter people. May we grow daily in a resurrection faith. May we open our hearts to be filled with the Holy Spirit. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, go in peace to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in this community and throughout the world.*

CLOSING MUSIC, then shut off the camera.