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April 3, 2016

Communion

(Portions of the service that are in **BOLD** are to be said by all.

All points marked * those who are able are invited to stand.)

Approach

Gathering Hymn VU #186 – “*Now the Green Blade Rises*”

Call to Worship

One: Jesus is risen and everything has changed!

All: We are kingdom people full of joy and courage!

One: Now is the time to worship.

- * Hymn – “*We Thank You God, For Sunday*” (tune VU #522 - see last page of announcement sheet)

Prayer of Approach

God of yesterday and of tomorrow and of today, we rejoice in the day you have made for us. We have so many reasons to praise you. We praise you for your hand at work in human history and for your promises that hold true for all of time. We rejoice in the abundant life you have blessed us with and for the beauty that surrounds us. We praise you for giving us your Son, and for raising him from the dead. And most of all, we praise you for your steadfast love for us and for this world, which Jesus’ resurrection proves cannot be defeated. With hearts and minds open to the Spirit of Christ, we come to worship. AMEN

The Word

 Scripture Reading – Acts 5: 27-39

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Meditation – “An unlikely church founder.”

Anthem – “Come, People of the Risen King”

Pastoral Prayer / The Lord’s Prayer

- * Hymn VU #179 – “*Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks*”

The Response

Announcements / Minute Person – Gordon Sargent

- * Offering / Response

He is Lord, He is Lord,

He is risen from the dead and He is Lord

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess

That Jesus Christ is Lord. (repeat)

Celebration of Communion

Prayer of Forgiveness

God of empty tombs and emptier people:

When we hesitate to speak of your hope,

Forgive us, and give us a voice.

When we find it difficult to love one another,

Forgive us, and give us fresh compassion.

When we want to stand with the high and mighty,

Forgive us, and seat us next to the poor and oppressed.

When we stay locked behind our fears and doubts,

Forgive us, and send us out to share your grace.

When we cannot believe your Word of new life,

Forgive us, and fill us with your joy...

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Post Communion Prayer

Filled with the spiritual food of Jesus, make us strong and determined witnesses to his life and teachings. May we never tire of declaring God’s love for the whole Creation. Make us worthy of the gift we have been given. We pray in Jesus’ name. AMEN

- * Hymn VU #420 – “*Go to the World*”

Benediction / Response

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

Hallelujah, hallelujah,

Amen, Amen, Amen.