

*The Charge

I Peter 2:2-5

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk,
so that by it you may grow into salvation—
if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

**Come to him, a living stone,
though rejected by mortals
yet chosen and precious in God's sight,
and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house,
to be a holy priesthood,
to offer spiritual sacrifices
acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

*Blessing

*Postlude

“Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather”

Japanese Gagaku
mode Isau Koizumi

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

A hearing loop is active; set hearing aid to “T-coil.”

Scripture passages are read from the New Revised Standard Version.

The Accra Confession, excerpted for today's Affirmation of Faith, was adopted by the delegates of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC), which was the predecessor of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). The Confession was affirmed by the 24th General Council of that body in Accra, Ghana (2004).

Montreat Presbyterian Church is an Earth Care congregation.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 14, 2017, 9:00 A.M.

Morning Meditation

I Peter 2:10

“Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people.”

Chimes of the Trinity and Ritual of Fellowship

Voluntary

“Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove”

Charles Callahan

*Call to Worship

Psalms 84:1-5

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

**My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;
My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,

Where she may lay her young

At your altars, O LORD of hosts, my ruler and God.

Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

**Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

*Hymn 401

“Here in This Place”

Prayer of Confession

Boundary-breaking God,

**You call us to move beyond the echo chambers of our own ideals,
but our fear often holds us back.**

We have lost sight of your all-inclusive love.

**Your house is big enough to welcome everyone,
but our churches are afraid that we will run out of space.**

We have been taken captive by the limits of human empathy.

**Hear our prayer for forgiveness. Open our hearts
to the promise of redemption. Show us the way. Lead us to salvation.**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Kyrie Eleison 437 (unison) “You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!”

Assurance of Pardon

Response 587 “Alleluia” CELTIC ALLELUIA
Verses will be sung by the cantor.

Reading from the New Testament Epistles I Peter 2:2-10

Reading from the Gospel John 14:1-14

*Hymn 394 “Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

Reading from the Gospel John 14:1-14
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

The Sermon “Big, Big House” David B. Smith

Prayers of the People

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 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.

Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory “Chorale and Fantasy on ‘Kingsfold’” Callahan/Carter

*Doxology 607

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ all people here below,
Praise Holy Spirit, evermore,
Praise Triune God Whom we adore. Amen!

*Prayer of Dedication

*Affirmation of Faith World Council of Reformed Churches
from *The Accra Confession*

We believe in God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life,
who calls us as partners in the creation and redemption of the world.

We believe God has made a covenant with all of creation.

God has brought into being a community
based on a vision of justice and peace.

**The covenant is a gift of grace
that is not for sale in the marketplace.**

It is an economy of grace for the household of all of creation.

Jesus shows that this is an inclusive covenant
in which the poor and marginalized are preferential partners.

**It calls us to put justice for the “least of these”
at the center of our common life.**

We believe that God calls men, women and children from every place
together, rich and poor,
to uphold the unity of the church and its mission
so that the reconciliation to which Christ calls can become visible.

**Therefore, we reject any attempt in the life of the church
to separate justice and unity.**

We believe that God is sovereign over all creation.

Therefore, all creation is blessed and included in this covenant.

*Hymn 301

“Let Us Build a House”