



New Utrecht Reformed Church at home
7th Sunday of Easter, Ascension of the Lord, May 24, 2020

We pray:

Dear Lord, together in our separation we gather to worship you. We gather to praise you. We gather to thank you. We gather to petition you for the many who are in need of healing, comfort and encouragement. We have no God but you, and we are grateful that we are a family of faith united by you.

We sing:

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Thou are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

We pray:

Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God;
let them be jubilant with joy. Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—his name is the LORD—be
exultant before him.

Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God
gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but
the rebellious live in a parched land.

Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength
to his people. Blessed be God!

(from Psalm 68)

We sing:

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall come
And take his servants up to their eternal home:
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say rejoice! AMEN

Our prayer of confession:

Walter Brueggemann wrote, "Prayer is an act of openness. When we pray, we participate in the ultimate practice of humanness as we yield to a Power greater than ourselves. Our best prayers engage in candor about our lives, practice vulnerability, run risks, and rest in confident trust." Today, Lord, we bow before you, expressing honestly our mistakes and bad choices, and asking you, our loving God of grace and forgiveness, to accept our prayers and put us back on the path of righteousness for your name's sake. Amen

Words of Assurance:

We read in John 5:24 that Jesus says: "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life."

Our Scripture Readings (please consult your own Bible):

- 1 Peter 4:12-14 & 5:6-11
- John 17:1-11

Our sermon: JUBILANT WITH JOY

*In thanks for God's Word and God's great work among us,
we will send our offering to Rita.*

We sing:

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

We pray:

Dear Lord, hear our prayers for the people we name who are in need of your healing hand and the inspiration of your Spirit; hear our prayers for our families, friends and neighbors; hear our prayers for our city, our state, our country and

the world as we all fight against a common enemy; hear our prayers of gratitude for all who serve, putting themselves at risk. Receive our joyful faith, and thank you for being our Lord and Savior; bless us all this day and this week, we pray, until we gather again in the Spirit of worship. In your holy name, Amen.

We pray this Benediction together:

May we be held in the hand of God the Father Almighty

May we be filled to overflowing with the Light of the world, His Son, our Savior Jesus

And may we always be safely protected at home, and if we need to go out,

by the shalom-making Holy Spirit.

Amen.

