APTOS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 9, 2021 ~ 10 AM Worship
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Aptos UMC is an inclusive community that welcomes and encourages full participation of ALL PERSONS, regardless of race, culture, age, economic circumstance, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical/mental abilities. We affirm our denomination’s motto, “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”

No Greater Love
LIVING THE RESURRECTION

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Order of Worship

Gathering Music

Call to Worship
See what love has been given to us, that we should be called children of God.

By this we know love, that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, and lived and died, that God’s love might be made plain among us.

Therefore, beloved, let us not love in word or in speech but in deed and in truth.

Because we love one another, we know that we have passed from death into life.

This is the victory that overcomes the world, through Jesus our risen Christ. Amen.

Prelude

Announcements

Hymn #560 “Help Us Accept Each Other”

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.
2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some, to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

3. Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

4. Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on; renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

Opening Prayer

Lord, we are gathered here today as one body, because you chose to call us your friends. We come from all walks of life. We have had our share of good days and bad days. In the world’s eye,
we aren't good enough or worthy enough to have this bond; but in your sight, we are exactly who you need. Despite all the drama, we made it here to worship and praise your name. May the love we experience today in worship restore us, revive us, refresh us. God, use our broken selves as tools of hope and love on this day. Lord, we love you. Thank you for loving us and calling us your friends. It's in your name, we pray. Amen.

Children's Time

**Hymn #2150**  
“Lord, Be Glorified”

1. In our lives, Lord, be glorified, be glorified. 
   In our lives, Lord, be glorified today.

2. In our homes, Lord, be glorified, be glorified. 
   In our homes, Lord, be glorified today.

3. In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified. 
   In your church, Lord, be glorified today.

4. In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified. 
   In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

**Prayer for Illumination**

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.
Scripture Lesson       John 15:9-17 (NRSV)

9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon       “No Greater Love”       Pastor Gabe

Hymn #2223     “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
Refrain:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand
in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we’ll spread the news that God is in our
land: (refrain)

3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity, and save human pride:
(refrain)

4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God’s only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (refrain)

Concerns and Prayers

Confession and Pardon

Loving and merciful One,
we thank you for the community in which you
have placed us,
for the brothers and sisters with whom we walk
this pilgrim journey.

Yet, we confess that we fail to love as you love.
We push aside those whom we believe are the
least in your Kingdom.
We fail to see your Kingdom in parables because we fail to see your Kingdom in each other. Form in us a new vision of community in which there is neither East nor West, neither South nor North. We pray for the sake of your Kingdom that both is and is not yet. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Offering

Special Music “O How He Loves You and Me”

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn #2226 “Bind Us Together”

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.
There is only one God, there is only one King;
There is only one body, that is why we sing.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord,
bind us together in love.

Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude

~ In Our Prayers This Week ~
Forrest Willcox

Homebound: LaVern Radeleff, Lollie Starbuck, Ruth Nichols

Special thanks this week to:
Our liturgist: Sheila Vaughn
Our ushers: Jana Daley, Steve Green, Margie Jurach, and Kathleen Hoaglund
Our prayer monitor: Peggy Kaysen
Our tech crew: Roger Swenson and Carolyn Collins