ORDER OF WORSHIP

UNION CHURCH OF VINALHAVEN

April 28, 2024

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*Opening Hymn: “When Morning Gilds the Sky”

1 When morning gilds the sky,  
our hearts awaking cry:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike in work and prayer  
To Jesus I repair  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

2 Discordant humankind,  
In this your concord find:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let all the earth around  
ring joyous with the sound:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

3 Sing suns and stars of space  
Sing all that see his face:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Gods whole creation o’er  
both now and evermore:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

4 Be this, while life in mine,  
My canticle divine:  
May Jesus Christ be praised! Be this the eternal song  
through all the ages long:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

**Call to Worship**

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Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

All: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

 Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

 For you alone are the Holy One you alone are the Lord, you alone are the most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Celebrant: The Lord Be with you

People: And also, with you

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYERS AND JOYS OF THE PEOPLE followed by the Lord’s Prayer

CHOIR: “God Who Made the World”

OFFERTORY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

HYMN: “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Holy, holy, holy  
Lord God almighty  
Early in the morning my song shall rise to thee.

Holy. holy, holy  
Merciful and mighty  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy  
All the saints adore Thee  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea  
All the cherubim and seraphim are falling down before Thee  
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy  
Though the darkness hide Thee  
Though the eyes of sinful man Thy glory may not see  
Lord, only Thou art holy and there is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy  
Lord God almighty  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy  
Merciful and mighty  
You are God in three persons, blessed Trinity

FIRST READING: Acts 8: 26-40 Doris Warren

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 22: 25-31 (unison)

**25**From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
   I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.  
**26The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
    those who seek the Lord give praise !  
    may your hearts live forever!**

**27**All the ends of the earth  
    shall remember and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations  
    shall bow before God,  
**28for dominion belongs to the Lord  
    and he rules over the nations.**

**29**All who sleep in the earth shall bow down and worship;  
    all who go down to the dust, though they be dead

 shall kneel before the Lord—  
      
**30Their descendants shall serve the Lord;  
    whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**  
**31**They shall proclaim God’s deliverance,  
     to a people yet unborn:  
    “ The Lord has acted!”

EPISTLE: 1 John 4: 7-21 Doris Warren

SPECIAL: Velna Zuzick

\* GOSPEL: John 15: 1-8

SERMON: Reverend Jeffrey Lewis

SILENCE

PRAYERS OF THANKS

***All:* Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have  
done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole  
creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life,  
and for the mystery of love.  
  
We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for  
the loving care which surrounds us on every side.  
  
We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best  
efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy  
and delight us.  
  
We thank you also for those disappointments and failures  
that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.  
  
Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the  
truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast  
obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying,  
through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life  
again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.  
  
Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and  
make him known; and through him, at all times and in all  
places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.***

***BLESSING: Jim Verostek***

CLOSING HYMN: “God of Grace and God of Glory”

God Of Grace and God of Glory, On Thy People Pour thy Power;  
Crown thine ancient church’s Story,  
Bring Its Bud to Glorious Flower.  
Grant Us Wisdom, Grant Us Courage  
For the Facing of This Hour,  
For the Facing of This Hour.

Lo, The Hosts of Evil Round Us  
Scorn the Christ, assail thy Ways.  
From the Fears That Long Have Bound Us  
Free Our Hearts to Faith and Praise.  
Grant Us Wisdom, Grant Us Courage  
For the Living of These Days,  
For the Living of These Days.

Cure Your Children’s Warring Madness;  
Bend Our Pride To thy Control;  
Shame Our Wanton, Selfish Gladness,  
Rich in Things and Poor in Soul.  
Grant Us Wisdom, Grant Us Courage  
Lest We Miss Your Righteous Goal,  
Lest We Miss Your Righteous Goal.

Set our feet on lofty places Fill our lives that we may be strengthened With Christ like graces Pledged to set all captives free; Grant us wisdom, grant us courage Lest we fail our call from thee lest we fail our call from thee.

Save Us from Weak Resignation  
To the Evils We Deplore;  
Let The search for thy Salvation  
Be Our Glory Evermore.  
Grant Us Wisdom, Grant Us Courage  
Serving thee Whom We Adore,  
Serving thee Whom We Adore.

DISMISSAL: Let us go forth into the world in rejoicing. ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!***