

Our worship tells us the household of God was not meant to stay in the house. Our prayers are for the church and for the world. We confess our sins against God and our neighbors, and we do not mean just those sitting beside us in our pews. There is simply no getting around it. If the church is where we learn who and whose we are, the world is where we are called to put that knowledge to use.

– *Barbara Brown Taylor*

MAY 21, 2017

**WATTS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
MAY 21, 2017
THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GATHERING

Chimes

Welcome/Concerns and Celebrations

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Bringing in the Light

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Light

Praise and Alleluia Choirs: "This Little Light of Mine" Traditional

Prelude: "Aria" (*Suite for Organ*)..... Philip Baker

PRAISING GOD

Minister: We join together in worship this day to affirm that we are part of Christ's church,

People: To seek answers to our questions and uncertainties, to find better questions to ask of our world.

Minister: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us.

People: God has called us to this time and place and to this life of love and service.

*Hymn 100: "When Morning Gilds the Skies" LAUDES DOMINI

PRAYING TOGETHER

Minister: Let us turn to God to find the Source of our life, forgiveness and hope.

Prayers of Confession in Silence

Corporate Confession: Gracious God, we are called to be a servant people, but too often we refuse your commands. We are silent when we should speak words of justice, peace and love. We are filled with fear and despair. Too often we hear only what we want to hear and filter out what demands change in ourselves for your kingdom to come among us. God, in the brokenness of our lives, come and mend the torn fabric of our relationships. Restore us to the wholeness for which you created us. Amen.

* If able, please stand. No flash photography. Please silence electronic devices.

Assurance of Pardon

People: Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Peace: “This Is My Song”Jean Sibelius, arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Alleluia and Chancel Choirs

Text: *The Chalice Hymnal*, Hymn 722

TENDING TO THE WORD

New Testament: Acts 7:54 – 8:1

Minister: The Word of God for the People of Christ.

People: May the Spirit grant us understanding.

Sermon: “Knowing What Is True” – Dorisanne Cooper

Silence

Let the healing grace of your love, O Lord, so transform me that I may play my part in the transfiguration of the world from a place of suffering, death, and corruption to a realm of infinite light, joy and love. Make me so obedient to your Spirit that my life may become a living prayer, and a witness to your unfailing presence. —Martin Israel

Hymn 86: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” FAITHFULNESS

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Minister: When our hopes lie buried, O God, your miracle occurs.

People: Risen Christ, turn our amazement into giving, our doubt to belief, and our surprise into ministry in your name. Amen.

Receiving Gifts

Organ Offertory: “Grazioso” Georg Philipp Telemann

*DoxologyLASST UNS ERFREUEN

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing, Let Christendom with praises ring.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ is alive! This be our song! To God all praises now belong.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

COMMITTING OUR LIVES IN FAITH

*Invitation

*Hymn 464: “God of Grace and God of Glory”CWM RHONDDA
Benediction
Carrying the Light into the World
Postlude: “Toccata in Seven” John Rutter

It is the practice and policy of Watts Street Baptist Church
to welcome and affirm all persons, regardless of race, class, origin,
sexual orientation, or any other distinction.

We welcome as Members those who profess “Jesus is Lord.”
We receive members through baptism or by transfer of letter from another congregation.
We also welcome Friends who maintain membership elsewhere.

CHURCH STAFF: **Sue Alexander**, Assistant Secretary; **Tom Bloom**, Organist; **Dorisanne Cooper**, Senior Minister; **Sherrill Figuera**, Office Manager; **Mary Elizabeth Hanchey**, Interim Director of Children’s Music Ministries; **Diane Eubanks Hill**, Minister with Adults; **Esther Soud Parker**, Minister with Children and Their Families; **Kelly Sasser**, Minister with Youth and Their Families; **Bobby Sturdivant**, Custodian; **Melody Zentner**, Director of Music Ministries

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