

West Belmar United Methodist Church

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

9:30 AM

*Congregation stands if able and comfortable.

BOLD – Congregation Response

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & BIRTHDAYS

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Led by Adri Lieb*

L: Beloved, we are called to love one another, because love is from God.

P: God's love is poured in us from our birth.

L: We are called to extend the love of God to all people.

P: God's loved is taught to us through the witness of God's faithful people.

L: We are called to proclaim God's love in all that we say and do.

All: In all creation, in all our relationships, may God's love be made known. Amen.

*HYMN: "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" UMH #158

*PASSING OF THE PEACE (Greet one another)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (In Unison) UMH #883

Led by Adri Lieb

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

CHANCEL CHOIR

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

*OFFERTORY PRAYER (In Unison)

Led by Reverend Robert Wecht

Dear God, how difficult it must have been for the disciples, having again spent time with the Risen Christ, to be confronted with his upcoming return to God. They wanted to keep him near them forever, but he was called back home to his Father. He understood their fears and their concerns and offered to them a sense of what they must do. They must truly love each other as God has truly loved each one of them. Can we do any less? We are called to love each one here, with the kind of love that Christ displayed, patient, respectful, strong. Our world would have us believe that love is that emotion which is manipulative; we love in order to get what we want. How sad it is! We are called to a higher understanding. Love must take the form of service and compassion, of hope and proclamation, of patient waiting and urgent striving for the good of all people. Open our hearts today, Lord, and imprint your message of love upon them, that all we say and do is done in your name and for the sake of your people and your world. Amen.

JOYS & CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

*HYMN: "God of the Sparrow God of the Whale" #122

SCRIPTURE READING John 15:9-17 NIV

Read by Adri Lieb

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.

¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

SERMON "LOVE ONE ANOTHER"
- Reverend Robert Wecht

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

BREAKING OF THE BREAD - SHARING THE CUP

*CLOSING HYMN: "Victory in Jesus" UMH #370

*BENEDICTION WITH BLESSING

- Reverend Robert Wecht

Friends and Beloved of Christ, you have been chosen to go into this world with the message of God's love. Bear fruit of hope and joy, peace and justice, with all that you meet. May God's peace be with you all. AMEN.

*SENDING "Shalom to You" UMH #666

POSTLUDE

Going Forth to Serve the World

Today's Lay Speaker:

Reverend Robert Wecht, Retired Elder

Liturgist: *Adri Lieb* **Music Director:** *William Ellis*

Next week's Lay Speaker: *Karen Tunbridge*

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Office Hours – Wednesday & Friday 9:30-3:30

"The Mission of West Belmar United Methodist Church is to Nurture and Encourage each other in Faith while sharing our Gifts and God's Love with the Community and the World."