

SCRIPTURE

1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

HOMILY

The Ergonomics of God

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION*

8:30a
See Insert

INVITATION

HYMN

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us, UMH 381

BENEDICTION*

Go now in peace, **Stand firm in your faith. Be strong. Be brave.**
Let everything you do be done in love.

POSTLUDE

OFFERING— *Your generosity and gifts enable Rayne’s ministries, thank you! Offerings will be received in the box on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary behind the last pew. You can also give online (rayennola.org/contribute) or by texting “giverayne” to 73256.*

WE WELCOME ALL— *All are invited to participate fully in the life of this community of faith and love regardless of race, class, gender, or sexual orientation. We welcome all with open hearts, open minds, and open doors! Those who wish to become members are encouraged to contact: jay@raynenola.org.*

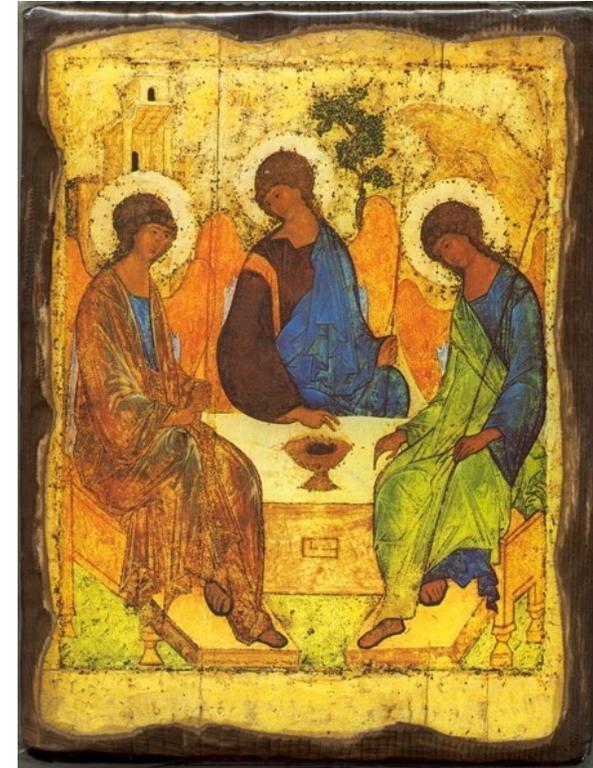


Rayne
Memorial United Methodist Church

for 145 years shining the light of God's love and grace

3900 Saint Charles Avenue - New Orleans, Louisiana 70115
504.899.3431 - www.raynenola.org

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Our altar flowers are given today by Brenda Smith Tolbert to the glory of God and in honor of Bob Smith, her father, on his birthday.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE GOSPEL

Welcome to All!

All are invited to participate in any of our activities,
and to become a part of this community of faith and love.

GATHERING

Rev. Jay Hogewood

When we love with our lives - through the work of truth and action -
we become reflections of God for all to see.

PRELUDE

Marcus St. Julien

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Rev. Zoe Garry 8:30am
Nancy Hopkins 11:00am

Love one another, even when love calls for risk.

We desire to love as God loves us.

Love and care for others, even when caring is hard.

We want to love and care as God loves and cares for us.

Let us love in truth and action. **By this we are known as children of God.**

HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, UMH 400

PRAYER

May the boldness given by Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Merciful Savior, you are our good shepherd. Please grant us grace to love as
you love - to protect the vulnerable, and to care for the wounded.

Inspire us with your strength to love in truth and action, especially when
loving this way challenges us. Awaken us with your compassion that we
might share your gift with others. And forgive us when our love is absent;
forgive us when we love only in words, not in truth and action. Shepherd us
in our loving and in our living that others may see in us the fruit of your
goodness and mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

11:00am

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE RED STEPS

A Special Time for Our Children

*At this time, children age 3 years old through 2nd grade may
attend children's church in the education building.*

**The People Standing*

ANTHEM

Cassie Segal, 8:30am

The Lord is my Shepherd

Howard Goodall

The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.

He leadeth me besides the still waters.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death

I will fear no evil.

For you are with me.

You will comfort me.

You are with me.

You will comfort me.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

And I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.

Forever. Forever. Forever.

Laurie Phillips, 11am

Christians, on this Day of Gladness

J.S. Bach, arr. Neil Jenkins

Text by Charles Wesley

Christians, on this day of gladness

Cast away all fear and sadness.

He who came Mankind to save

Has endured the Cross and Grave.

He who conquered Death's dark prison

Now in glory has arisen.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Satan's power flees before him;

Come ye faithful to adore him.

Love's redeeming work is done;

Fought the fight, the battle won.

Hail the Lord of Earth and Heaven!

Praise to thee by both be given.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Sing we now with hearts and voices

While the ransomed world rejoices.

Soar we now where Christ has led,

Following our exalted Head.

He has opened Heav'n's bright portal,

Granting sinners life immortal.

Alleluia, alleluia.

HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, UMH 400

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.
2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

HYMN

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us, UMH 381

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
2. We are thine, thou dost befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.
3. Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.
4. Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will;
blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION*

All are welcome at the table!

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION

You know us so very well, Christ Jesus. You know our struggles and our weakness, and you love us enough to welcome us to your care and conviction. You know our divisions and fractures, and you love us enough to invite us to forgive one another and live in unity. Shine the light of your love upon us, and forgive us please, as we walk your path of peace and mercy.
(silence)

PARDON

Hear the good news: if we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

And so in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please place your empty communion vessel in the brown paper bag and leave it at your seat as you depart.