

*Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.*

**5th Sunday of Easter**

**April 28, 2024**

*The asterisk (\*) indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

## **Silent Prayer of Preparation**

*O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## **Gathering Music**

### **The Gathering of God's People**

#### **Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Introit** “Our God Is Lifted Up”

Tim Smith, 1986

Our God is lifted up midst the shouts of joy,  
Our God is lifted up in the sounding of the trumpets;  
Our God is lifted up midst the shouts of joy,  
Shout joyfully unto our God.

arr. Clint Morse

Let the trumpets make a joyful noise,  
Let us clap our hands and praise our God;  
For our God is lifted up upon high.

## **\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, children of God, to sing a new song, clap your hands and shout for joy.

**People: Jesus is our good news, our joy and our salvation.**

Leader: In steadfast love and faithfulness God has done marvelous things.

**People: God raised Jesus from the dead; Christ is alive and at work among us.**

**Leader: The ends of the earth turn to God; all families of nations worship our Creator.**

**People: Christ is the vine; we are the branches. Apart from Christ we can do nothing.**

**\*Hymn**

“To God Be the Glory”

#634

## The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**We confess, O God, that we are accustomed to having our own way. Our abundance has tricked us into believing that we are independent, self-sustaining creatures. Yet, when our ingenuity solves one problem, a dozen more seem to take its place. We need help to understand, to be reconnected, to be truly productive. We need your love and forgiveness to live with ourselves and with one another. Help us, O Lord. Amen.**  
(Silent prayer of confession.)

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Response Hymn**

“Glory to God”

#585

Glory to God, glory to God, glo-ry in the high-est! Glory to God,  
glory to God, glo-ry to Christ Je - sus! Glory to God, glory to God,  
glo - ry to the Spir - it! To God be glo-ry for-ev - er!  
Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men!

## Ministry of the Word

### Prayer for Illumination

### Children's Sermon

### First Scripture Reading

John 15:1-8

### Choir Anthem

“Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit”

arr. Clint Morse

(refrain) Ev’ry time I feel the spirit

Moving in my heart I will pray.

Upon the mountain my Lord spoke,

Out of his mouth came fire and smoke.

Looked all around me, it looked so fine,

'Til I asked my Lord if all was mine. (refrain)

Jordan River is chilly and cold,

It chills the body, but not the soul.

There ain't but one train upon this track,

It runs to heaven an' right back. (refrain)

### Second Scripture Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

“Sisters and Brothers”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

## The Response to the Word

### Invitation to Offering

#### \*Response

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks” (refrain)

#240

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

#### \*Hymn

“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

#298

## Ordination and Installation

### Sentences of Scripture

Pastor: There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**People: There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.**

Pastor: God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**People: To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.**

Pastor: Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

## **Statement on Ordination**

### **\*Profession of Faith**

Pastor: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

**People: I do.**

Pastor: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

**People: I do.**

Pastor: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Pastor: With the whole church, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God the Father?

**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Gracious and eternal God ... all glory and honor, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## Constitutional Questions

### Congregational Questions

Clerk of Session: Do we, the members ... us in the way of Jesus Christ?

**People: We do.**

Clerk of Session: Do we agree ... who alone is Head of the Church?

**People: We do.**

### \*Prayer of Ordination and Installation

Pastor: Let us pray: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### \*Declaration of Ordination and Installation

### \*Welcome

## The Sending of God's People

### \*Closing Hymn

“Here I Am, Lord”

#69

### \*Charge and Blessing

### \*Congregational Response “We Are the Church”



**\*Postlude**    “When, in Our Music, God Is Glorified”    arr. Anna Laura Page

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**Pastors:**    Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood  
                    Steven A. Watters

**Music Director:** Thomas Lloyd  
**Organist:** Carol Welk

**Liturgist:** Stephanie Parrott

Stephanie and David have been married for 3 years. She graduated from Iowa State University with a PhD in chemistry. They moved to London in the summer of 2020. They love to garden, ride their tandem bicycle on the trails surrounding London, and love to spend time with their furry children (Minnie, a 2 year old Staffordshire Terrier, and Charlie, a 10 year old Mini Rex rabbit).

**Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,  
for he who promised is faithful.  
Hebrews 10:23**