

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: We are God's household, crafted by the Architect of creation:

Many: our hearts a shelter for the outcast; our hands open to the stranger.

One: We are God's people, created in the divine image:

Many: to tell others of God's love, to offer mercy as freely as we have received it.

One: We are God's children, called to give of ourselves:

Many: chosen to serve the lost and lonely, gifted to minister to a hurting world.

*Opening Song:

"O Worship the King"

#2

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Gracious God, we now open our eyes, ears and hearts to listen to you. Speak to us and give us Your word, for we cannot live on bread alone. Light up our insides with the work of the living Holy Spirit. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

Hear the brokenness of our lives, Precious God. We cover our ears so we cannot hear the cries of those in need, or you urging us to respond. We rush together to defend every issue that matters to us, but quickly disperse when you would call us to be your holy people. We shout as loud as we can to cheer on our sports teams, but can manage only whispers when it comes to sharing the good news.

Forgive us, our Eternal Guide, and do not hold our sins against us. We lay the garments of our foolishness at your feet, so you might clothe us in grace and hope. We would feed on the spiritual food which flows from your heart so we might be strong enough to follow Jesus as he leads us in the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: You are no longer alone - you are God's Beloved. You are not of this world, but residents of God's Kingdom. You, who once had no hope, have been filled with forgiveness.

Many: Each one of us, all of us, have received God's mercy in Jesus. Forgiven, redeemed, made whole - we are a people made one in faith. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

John 14:1-14

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

inside the back cover of the hymnal

(read together)

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. A-men, A-men.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 2:2-10

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

"Talking Points"

Pastor Chris

Communion Song

"Break Now the Bread of Life"

#665

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors), Sharing the Bread and Cup

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, dear God, that at this table, we have touched, we have tasted, and we have heard the signs of your love for us. Grant that we may go away from this house filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love for those who are around us and who share our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

#34

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of overflowing abundance, in gratitude for your many blessings, we offer you our gifts and ministries, that a wounded world might know your grace. Amen.

*Closing Song "The Word Is Full of Stories" #558

***Going Forth with the Peace of Christ**

***Indicates all who are able please stand**

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance (adapted), are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted), is by B. J. Beu from the *Abingdon Worship Annual* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving is adapted from a prayer by David L. Beebe from *Touch Holiness-Resources for Worship* edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. The Affirmation of Faith is a version of our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith.

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Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Vicki Merchlewitz
May Radio Sponsor:	Marilyn Deal

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Birthdays: May 13: Jack Grindberg

Today, May 7: 10 am.- Worship with Communion
Sunday School
Coffee
Food Pantry

Tuesday, May 9: 9:30-11am. -Pastor at Feed Mill
6:30pm.: Food Pantry Meeting

Wednesday, May 10: 7pm. - Board Meeting

Thursday, May 11: 8:30am. - Ministerial Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Friday, May 12: 9:15am. – Care Center Worship

Sunday, May 14: 10:00 am. – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee
Mother’s Day/Rural Life Sunday

Pilgrim Heights Summer Camp flyer is on the bulletin board.

Carter Center Report to donors is on the table in the parlor.



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