

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, May 3, 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

GATHERING

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 31, 1 Peter 2, John 14*

One: God is our Rock and our Fortress

All: In God, we find refuge and strength.

One: God's house has many dwelling places.

All: We will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

One: Christ himself has gone to prepare a place for us.

All: For us, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

One: So let us worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

***OPENING HYMN** “God Is Here Today” GtG #411

God is here today; as certain as the air I breathe,

as certain as the morning sun that rises,

as certain when I sing you'll hear my song.

TEXT: Javier Gacías, 1979; transl. C. Michael Hawn, 1998

MUSIC: Javier Gacías, 1979; arr. C. Michael Hawn and Arturo González, 1999

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PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Steadfast God, we confess Jesus as the way, the truth and the life for us,
yet we often fail to follow him, too often gone our own way,
distorted the truth and led hollow lives.
Forgive us for falling short of your purpose for our lives.
Give us courage to follow Jesus, who continues to show us the way.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Do not let your hearts be troubled. Know that, in Christ, you are forgiven. Accept God's grace and forgiveness this day, and extend it to others for Jesus' sake. Friends, believe the Good News, in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

THE DOXOLOGY

GtG #606

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

*TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709 MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1531.
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THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Acts of the Apostles Acts 7:55-60
Epistle 1 Peter 2:2-10
GOSPEL John 14:1-14

SERMON “Living Stones, Living Bread” *by Reverend Jen Warren-Hauser*

***HYMN** “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” GtG #645

1. **Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled,
and every faithless murmur stills:
to God all praise and glory!**
2. **What God’s almighty power has made
God’s gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning glow or evening shade
God’s watchful eye ne’er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of God’s might,
lo! All is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!**
3. **The Lord is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing,
as with a mother’s tender hand
God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!**

(continued...)

**4. Thus all my toilsome way along
I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart;
both soul and body, take you part:
to God all praise and glory!**

*TEXT: Johann Jacob Schutz, 1675; trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864, alt.
MUSIC [MIT FREUDEN ZART]: Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesang, 1566;
harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906, alt.
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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(The Nicene Creed)*

**We believe in one God,
The Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 He came down from heaven.
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 He ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

(continued...)

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory
Forever.
Amen**

OFFERING

Invitation

HYMN: “Taste and See” GtG #520

Refrain

**Taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord.
O taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.**

**1. I will bless the Lord at all times.
Praise shall always be on my lips;
my soul shall glory in the Lord,
for God has been so good to me.**

Refrain

**2. Glorify the Lord with me,
Together let us all praise God’s name.
I called the Lord, who answered me;
from all of my troubles, I was set free.**

Refrain

**3. Worship the Lord, all you people.
You’ll want for nothing, if you ask.
Taste and see that the Lord is good;
in God we need put all our trust.**

Refrain

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Reflection

**Prayer of Dedication*

One: Generous God, we bless you for life renewed through Christ's love and through springtime growth in fields and gardens. Use the gifts we offer to bring hope and renewal to the world you love in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

All: Amen.

THE EUCHARIST

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: ... Therefore with all creation we sing your praise:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

One: ... Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again...

One: ... Now and forever.

All: Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(With the passing of the bread, please wait until all have been served so that all may partake together, reflecting our unity in Christ.)

(With the passing of the cup, please partake as soon as received as an Expression of our personal relationship with Christ.)

Prayer after communion

***CLOSING HYMN: “God of Our Life” GtG #686**

- 1. God of our life,
through all the circling years,
we trust in thee.
In all the past,
through all our hopes and fears,
thy hand we see.
With each new day,
when morning lifts the veil,
we own thy mercies,
Lord, which never fail.**

- 2. God of the past,
our times are in thy hand.
With us abide.
Lead us by faith
to hope’s true promised land.
Be thou our guide.
With thee to bless,
the darkness shines as light,
and faith’s fair vision
changes into sight.
(continued...)**

- 3. God of the coming years,
through paths unknown
we follow thee.
When we are strong, Lord,
leave us not alone.
Our refuge be.
Be thou for us
in life our daily bread,
our heart's true home
when all our years have sped.**

*TEXT: Hugh Thomson Kerr, 1916, alt. © 1928 F.M. Braselman, re. 1956
Presbyterian Board of Christian Education. (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)
MUSIC: Charles Henry Purday, 1860; harm. John Weaver, 1986 SANDON
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***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

One: We are God's own people, who have received mercy.
So do not let your hearts be troubled. Jesus waits for you in each new day.
May the Spirit guide you in the Way; May Christ reveal the Truth in you;
And may God grant you Life abundant now and evermore.

POSTLUDE

***Standing if able.**