FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 18, 2025
11:00 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Rev. Dr. Timothy T. Boggess

GRADUATES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS Eric Robinson

PRELUDE *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* African-American Spiritual
(Steven Phillips, Isaac Mingus, and Mark DeRose)

CALL TO WORSHIP Kim Whitford

Alleluia! Christ is alive; let all the people praise him.
Let all creation sing with joy. Alleluia!

***HYMN 744** *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* JUNKANOO

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives' liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Renewing God,
in Jesus Christ you are making all things new.
But we are still stuck in the past,
clinging to old wounds and worries.
Forgive us.
Help us to get out of our own way,
so that your way of healing and hope
may reign in our lives.

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***SONG OF JOY 611** (v. 1) *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

text from Psalm 98

ANTHEM *Clap Your Hands* Alan Pote
(The Chancel Choir)

Sing a new song to the Lord,
Sing a new song of joy.
Sing to the Lord with shouts of gladness,
Sing a new song of joy.
O praise him with song,
with trumpet and horn,
make a joyful noise to the Lord.
And clap your hands you rivers,
Sing together all you hills.
O clap your hands and sing for joy!

For God has done wonderful works among the people.
He has remembered Israel.
Ruling in majesty, in mighty power and strength.
God is the ruler of the world.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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SCRIPTURE READING Revelation 21:1-6

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Living the Dream* Rev. Boggess

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Cliff Michael Cardi

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Kim Whitford

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 OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *How Firm a Foundation* arr. Steven Phillips

***DOXOLOGY 608** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (1983)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Kim Whitford

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 366** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* HYFRYDOL

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE *Give Me That Old Time Religion* African-American Spiritual

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.

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