FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 28, 2024
11:00 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND INVITATION Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

PRELUDE *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* arr. Watanabe
(The Handbell Choir)

from Psalm 105

CALL TO WORSHIP Floyd Churn

We offer our lives to you, Lord.
Make your ways known to us.
Lead us in your truth—teach it to us—
because you are the God who saves us.

***HYMN 485** *We Know That Christ Is Raised* ENGELBERG

We know that Christ is raised
and dies no more.
Embraced by death he broke
its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned
to blazing joy. Alleluia!

We share by water in
his saving death.
Reborn we share with him
an Easter life
as living members of
a living Christ. Alleluia!

The Father's splendor clothes
the Son with life.
The Spirit's power shakes
the church of God.
Baptized we live with God
the Three in One. Alleluia!

A new creation comes
to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes
on flesh and blood.
The universe, restored
and whole, will sing: Alleluia!

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Forgive us, O God, when we do not live
as people who have been freed.
Forgive us, O God, when we act as if the Easter story
did not turn the world-upside down.
Forgive us, O God, when we ignore that
we are rooted in you and bound to one another.
Forgive us, O Christ, when we forget
the comfort and the calling of our baptisms.

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

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

***SONG OF JOY 269** (v. 2) *Lead On, O King Eternal* LANCASHIRE

Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords' loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums;
with deeds of love and mercy
the heavenly kingdom comes.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP Betsy Marshall
Mary Willis

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *The Lord is My Shepherd* (*Psalm 23*)
(The Chancel Choir)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside 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.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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SCRIPTURE READING Acts 8:26-40

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *On the Road to Find Out* Rev. Boggess

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Floyd Churn

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 *Above All Names* arr. Ingram
(The Handbell Choir)

***DOXOLOGY 608** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Floyd Churn

We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship.
Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ
is God's undeserved gift to each of us.
It is also God's demand upon every one of us,
never perfectly fulfilled by any of us.
Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters,
we strive to become more faithful and effective
in our daily practice of the Christian life.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 450** *Be Thou My Vision* SLANE

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE *Indescribable* arr. Wagner
(The Handbell Choir)

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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