FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 11, 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

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIRTHDAY OFFERING Elaine Barnett

PRELUDE *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* arr. Parrish
(The Handbell Choir)

CALL TO WORSHIP Janet Churn

O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in God.
With hearts and hands and voices,
we gather to praise the Lord.

***HYMN 14** *For the Beauty of the Earth* DIX

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light: (Refrain)

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: (Refrain)

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild: (Refrain)

For thyself, best gift divine
to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven: (Refrain)

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God,
you call us your own children
and cover us with your love.
We wish to be as merciful as you are,
and to show compassion as you do,
but we consistently fail to live the life
to which we have been called.
Forgive our sinful ways,
tame our wayward hearts,
and make us more like Christ.

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

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

***SONG OF JOY 623** (vv. 1 & 2) *I've Got Peace Like a River* PEACE LIKE A RIVER

I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul. (twice)

I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *All Things Bright and Beautiful* John Rutter
(The Chancel Choir)

Refrain:
All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors; God made their tiny wings. (Refrain)

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky:

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one. (Refrain)

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. (Refrain)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 3:1-3

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 Janet 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 *Children of the Heavenly Father* arr. Mocklebust
(The Handbell Choir)

***DOXOLOGY 607** *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 Brief Statement of Faith* (1983)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Janet Churn

In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs of Christ with the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 754** *Help Us Accept Each Other* BARONITA

Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted,
and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness,
and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
Lord, free us; make us one!

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE *Fanfare* William Mathias
(Glenn Priest, organist)

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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