

**Sunday May 25, 2025
Sixth Sunday of Easter**

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Open The Eyes of My Heart" Words and music by Paul Bloche. Arr. Ken Medina

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Lighting the Christ Candle

Jesus Christ, the Light of the world!

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worship

We come from scattered lives to this sanctuary,

invited by the Spirit.

We come from individual lives to this sanctuary,

welcomed by the Christ.

We come from chaotic lives to this sanctuary,

to worship you, O God,

in whom we live and move and have our being.

Hymn VU 234 "Let Us with a Gladsome Mind" Words: John Milton, 1623.

Music: attr. to John Antes, ca. 1800; arr. John Lees, 1824; adapt. John Wilkes, 1861.

Words, Music, Arrangement in the Public Domain.

Let us with a gladsome mind
praise our God, forever kind;
whose great mercies still endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

God, with all commanding might,
filled the new-made world with light;
for God's mercies still endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

God has with a gracious eye
looked upon our misery;
for God's mercies still endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

All things living God does feed,
with full measure meets their need;
for God's mercies still endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us then with gladsome mind,
 praise our God forever kind;
 whose great mercies still endure,
 ever faithful, ever sure.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Holy One, in the beginning you created us to befriend us. By your Spirit you call us from near and far, inviting us into a renewed relationship with you. By your Christ you welcome us into your heart. Thank you! Continue to watch over us, we pray; disturb our complacency; fill us again and again with your Spirit; deepen our faith and our relationship with you, that we might continue faithfully in relationship with you, that the world might see and praise you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Ministry of Music: Hymn Sing

Apostles' Creed VU 918

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn VU 228 "Sing Praises to God" Words: Henry Williams Baker, 1875. Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1887. Words and Music in the Public Domain.

Sing praises to God! Sing praise in the height;
 rejoice in God's word, blest angels of light;
 high heavens, recalling by whom you were made,
 come, offer your worship in brightness arrayed.

Sing praises to God! Sing praise upon earth,
 in tuneful accord, you saints of new birth;
 praise God, who has brought you rich grace from above,
 and showered your life with abundance of love.

Sing praises to God, all things that give sound;
 each jubilant chord re-echo around;
 loud organs, your glory tell out in deep tone,
 and trumpets, the story of what God has done.

Sing praises to God! Thanksgiving and song
 be ever outpoured, all ages along;
 for love in creation, for hope spread abroad,
 for grace of salvation, sing praises to God.

We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Responsive Reading: Psalm 67

Let the peoples praise you, God, let the nations shout their joy.

Be gracious unto us, O God, and bless us;
 and let the light of your face shine upon us,
that your ways may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.

Let the nations be glad, and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples righteously
and guide the nations of the earth.

The earth has yielded its harvest,
 and you, our God, have blessed us.

Your blessing, O God, be upon us.

May all the ends of the earth revere you.

Let the peoples praise you, God, let the nations shout their joy.

Scripture: Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

*The other readings for this week are: **John 14:23-29 OR John 5:1-9; Revelation 21:10, 22 - 22:5***

Meditation: "Outside the box"

Hymn VU 371 “Open My Eyes, That I May See” Words and Music: Clara H. Scott, 1895.
In the Public Domain.

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
everything false shall disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

God invites us into community, into relationship with God. Our tithes and our offerings are just one way that we respond to God's gracious invitation. Our tithes and offerings will be received.

Offertory Hymn MV 50 “Alleluia” Words: traditional liturgical text. Music: Norah Duncan IV.
Music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. OneLicense.net A620168

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

God of all peoples and God of all places, we ask that you bless and multiply our offerings as once you multiplied the loaves and the fishes, that they may be used to expand and invite all peoples into your eternal dominion of justice and peace. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy One, as we go to our homes and our work this week we ask you to send your Holy Spirit into our lives.

Open our ears that we may hear what you are saying to us in the things that happen to us and in the people we meet.

Open our eyes that we may see the needs of people around us.

Open our hands that we may do our work well and help when help is needed.

Open our lips that we may tell the Good News of Jesus and bring comfort, happiness, and laughter to others.

Open our minds that we may discover new truth about you and the world.

Open our hearts that we may love you and others as you have loved us.

Bless all the peoples of this world, whom you have given the gift of life, especially this week we think of the people of the islands of the Indian Ocean: Comoros, Madagascar, the Maldives, Mauritius, and the Seychelles.

Support those who mourn.

Comfort those who are ill, especially... their loved ones, friends and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts....

All this we pray in the name of the risen Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. And the people prayed, saying..

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU 418 "Go Forth for God" Words: J.R. Peacey, ca. 1970. Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551.

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Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;

be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,

in God's good Spirit daily to increase,

till in the kingdom we see face to face.

Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.

Go forth for God, go to the world in love;

strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak;

help the afflicted; richly from above

God's love supplies the grace and power we seek

Go forth for God, go to the world in love.

Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;
 hold fast the good, be urgent for the right;
 render to no one evil; Christ at length
 shall overcome all darkness in his light.
 Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.

Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,
 to serve God's people ever day and hour,
 and serving Christ, our every gift employ,
 rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.
 Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.

Benediction

As you opened Lydia's heart to you, O God,
open our hearts to you.

As you opened Paul's mind to visions of his call, O God,
open our minds, give us a vision of your call for us in this time and place.

As you opened Paul's lips to share the good news, O God,
open our lips to share the good news of your kingdom with all whom we meet.

Go, with hearts set ablaze for God.

Go, dream dreams and have visions of your future ministry.

Go, share the good news of the kingdom of God.

**We go, with the grace of our Lord, Jesus, the Christ,
 the love of God, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Response: *to the tune VU 81 (DIX).* Words: Unknown.

Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838; adapt. William H. Monk, 1861. Music in the Public Domain

We will meet the risen Christ
 as we live in love each day
 so to God we give all praise
 every day is Easter Day!
 Alleluia! Death has died.
 Christ arisen! Christ alive!

Postlude: "O Worship the King" Johann M. Haydn. Arr. by Melody Bober.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Congregational Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, May 25 to approve our Living Faith Story; to decide, based on our profiles (Living Faith, Demographic, and Financial Viability), on our future direction; and, if appropriate, to select members to serve on a Search Team. (search team training is scheduled for June 10 – online)

National Centennial Anniversary Service will be held at Gower Street United Church on Sunday, June 8 at 5:30 p.m. EDT. The service will be broadcast live online at www.youtube.com/live/bh4sW1kdpWo If you would like to have this shown in the sanctuary at DUC, please let Rev. Mark know. If there is enough interest he will make it happen.

Lectionary Readings for next week: June 1, Seventh of Easter
Acts 16:16–34 Psalm 97 Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20–21 John 17:20–26