

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

Prelude	<i>Meditation on "Peace Like a River"</i>	Brenda Portman (b. 1980)
Introit	<i>And the Father Will Dance</i>	Mark Hayes
Welcome		Reverend Dr. Debra Murray
Processional Hymn	<i>Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee</i>	UMH 89

Mortals, join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
love divine is reigning o'er us,  
binding all within its span.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward,  
in the triumph song of life.

**People: We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.**



Leader: If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of praise and set out anyway.

**People: For we are called to dance again!**

## Pastoral Prayer

### Lord's Prayer

Our Creator 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.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

### Anthem

*To Live is Christ*

Eugene Butler (b. 1935)

### Scripture

*John 15:1-8*

### Hymn

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

UMH 384

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 that second rest.  
Take away our bent to 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.

### Message

Reverend Gail Davis



## HOLY COMMUNION

L: Before we begin our celebration of Holy Communion, I want to pause to invite those of you who have not already prepared elements to do so. I assure you that even an English muffin can become a sacrament, even a Cup of water or tea can become remembrance of God's redeeming love.

Receive this invitation for holy communion. This morning I invite you to lend Christ your home. On the first day of hosanna in their hearts, Jesus asked to borrow a donkey. On the Thursday that followed, Jesus rented or was given John's mother's upper room to celebrate the Passover with the disciples. On the afternoon of the resurrection, Jesus was invited into a house in Emmaus and used the bread of that hospitality to break and bless. Lend Christ your home and your cup and your heart. For as the disciples told the person who loaned the donkey, the Lord hath need of it. Receive the prayer of consecration.

We belong to a worldwide table where we are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing. Though we are many throughout the earth and this church community is spread worldwide, we are one in Christ. In your many kitchens and living rooms, rest your hands lightly upon these elements which we've set aside today to be a sacrament. And let us ask God's blessing upon them:

**A: Gentle Redeemer there is no lock down on your blessing and no quarantine on grace. Send your spirit of life and love, power and blessing upon every table where your child shelters in place, that this bread may be broken and gathered in love, and this cup poured out to give hope to all. Risen Christ, live in us that we may live in you. Breathe in us that we may breathe in you.**

L: We remember that Paul the Apostle wrote letters to congregations throughout the places we now call Greece, Turkey and Macedonia. And they were the first remote worship resources. Our online service has a long heritage. The communion words sent to the church at Corinth were these: for I received from the Lord what I also handed onto you, that the Lord Jesus on the night on which he was betrayed took a loaf of bread. And when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, this is my body that is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me. And in the same way he took the cup after supper saying, this is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the bread of heaven. Please hold your bread up in front of you, and let's break it together, symbolizing that this is the body of Christ, which is broken for us.

**A: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.**

L: Let us in many places receive the gift of God, the cup of blessing. Lift up your Cup and dip your bread in the cup of blessing.

**A: We are one in Christ in the Cup we share.**

L: And let us partake. Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace, rejoicing that by the very method of our worship we have embodied the truth that Christ's love is not limited by buildings made by hand, nor contained in human ceremonies, but blows as free as the spirit in all places.

**A: Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this bread give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world. And may the drinking of this cup renew our hope, even in the midst of pandemic. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen.**





## Invitation to the Offering

## Offertory Prayer

God of the far-flung universe and God who is closer than our own heartbeat: we long to dwell in your closeness, abiding in you and you abiding in us. However, the call to abide in other places is strong: to abide in the world of popularity and acceptance or in the world of increasing wealth and power centered around our own wants and desires. As we offer our gifts and ourselves to you, help us turn away from other calls and abide in that place of heart's deepest desire: in your Son, Jesus, and he in us. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

Offertory *Simple Gifts* arr. Diane Keller (b. 1973)

Doxology *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH No. 94

Closing Hymn *Now Let Us from This Table Rise* UMH 634

Now let us from this table rise  
renewed in body, mind, and soul;  
with Christ we die and live again,  
his selfless love has made us whole.

With minds alert, upheld by grace  
to spread the word in speech and deed,  
we follow in the steps of Christ,  
at one with all in hope and need.

To fill each human house with love,  
it is the sacrament of care;  
the work that Christ began to do  
we humbly pledge ourselves to share.

Then grant us courage, Father God,  
to choose again the pilgrim way,  
and help us to accept with joy  
the challenge of tomorrow's day.

Benediction Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

*Alleluia* UMH 186

Postlude *Prelude in C Major* Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

## Virtual Coffee & Chat

Join us after the service for a virtual coffee chat! All are welcome.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81124350936>

Please message Paula McKinney or Pastor Ann for the password.