

May 6, 2012 SERVICE OF WORSHIP

11:00 am

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Liturgical Color: White

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death shall never die.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Lynn Polk, Lay Leader

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

Julia Baker

PRELUDE

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

David Cherwien

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Marilyn Murphy

Leader: Come to us even now, O Lord of Life,

People: And fill this place with your presence!

Leader: We praise your name and rejoice in your love,

People: We stand in utter amazement of who you are!

Leader: Everyone who calls upon you will find fulfillment,

People: They will rejoice forever, because you are God!

Leader: Rejoice and give thanks!

People: Halleluiah! Amen!

***HYMN NO. 158**

Come Christians, Join to Sing

Spanish Hymn

CALL TO CONFESSION

Larry Moore

There come those moments when we stand exposed, our failings, our hurtful words, our harmful ways open for all to see. But God takes these moments, and these sins, redeeming them through compassion and love, making us new people, children of the Living God. Let us come, in these moments, with our prayers to the One who waits to forgive us and make us whole.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We carry our fears around with us like so much pocket lint, Compassionate Heart, when you would take them and toss them aside, spent and useless. You invite us to sit and chat with someone who wants to know more about you, but we are busy running errands. You give us a simple command—to love—and we complicate it with rules, worries, and doubts.

Forgive us, Vine Grower. You have planted those seeds of mercy, of hope, of grace deep within us, so we might bear rich and nourishing fruit for others. May we not get in the way of your Gardener, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who will use the Holy Spirit to bring forth an abundant crop.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God abides in you! God is breathing, living, forgiving, restoring you in this moment, and in the days to come. This is the good news for us!

As God is in us, so we can live, work, care for others, so that love, hope, and joy might touch all people. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

Thom Shuman on *Lectionary Liturgies*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 3:1-15

Page 62 (OT) in pew Bibles

***GOSPEL LESSON**

John 15:1-8

Page 133 (NT) in pew Bibles

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Go Forth and Tell
Chancel Choir

David Ogden

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose
power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Reverend Martin

As the children come to the front of the Sanctuary, they are invited to bring change to help in Heifer International. If any adults want to contribute, please pass your money to a child as they come forward. Following the message, 3-year-olds through Kindergarteners may leave the Sanctuary for Extended Session.

***HYMN NO. 292**

What Wondrous Love Is This

Wondrous Love

SERMON

"How to Grow Branches"

The Reverend Terry C. Martin

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (Please see communion insert)

***HYMN NO. 408**

The Gift of Love

Gift of Love

***BENEDICTION**

Go now, and love one another,
because love is from God.
Proclaim God's salvation to every generation.
Remain in Jesus Christ,
and like branches of a vine, draw your life from him.

And may God the vine grower tend you and make you fruitful;
May Christ Jesus abide in you and give you life;
And may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with God's love.

**We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE NO. 666**

Shalom to You

Shalom

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

**Please stand if you are able*

Nursery Provided

Music Notes

This anthem has a strong mission flavor. We must be fruitful and proclaim the Good News.

Go Forth and Tell
David Ogden

*Go forth and tell! O Church of God awake!
God's saving news to all the nations take;
Proclaim Christ Jesus, Savior Lord and King,
That all the world his worthy praise may sing.*

*Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;
He will in grace respond to all who call:
How shall they call if they have never heard
the gracious invitation of his word?*

*Go forth and tell where still the darkness lies;
in wealth or want, the sinner surely dies:
give us, O Lord, concern for heart and mind,
a love like yours which cares for human kind.*

*Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide;
share God's good gifts let no one be denied;
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,
your ransomed powers for his sole glory use,*

*Go forth and tell! O Church of God arise!
Go in the strength your Lord supplies.
Go till all nations his great name adore
and serve him, Lord and King for evermore.
Amen, Amen.*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Invitation

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.

You who come to me shall not hunger;
you who believe in me shall never thirst.

**In company with all who hunger for spiritual food,
we come to this table to know the risen Christ
in the sharing of this life-giving bread.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, for you made us,
and before us you made the world we inhabit,
and before the world you made the eternal home
in which, through Christ, we have a place.

All that is spectacular and all that is plain
have their origin in you;
all that is lovely and all who are loving
point to you as their fulfillment.


And grateful as we are for the world we know
and the universe beyond our knowing,
we particularly praise you, whom eternity cannot contain,
for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

For his life, which informs our living,
for his compassion, which changes our hearts,
for his clear speaking, which contradicts our generalities,
for his disturbing presence, his innocent suffering, his fearless dying,
his rising to life and breathing forgiveness, we praise you and worship him.


Here too our gratitude rises for the promise of the Holy Spirit,
who even yet, even now, confronts us with your claims
and attracts us to your goodness.
Therefore we gladly join our voices
to the song of the church on earth and in heaven:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.



5 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the



8 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the



11 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

And now, lest we believe
that our praise alone fulfills your purpose,
we fall silent and remember him who came
because words weren't enough.

Setting our wisdom, our will, our words aside,
emptying our hearts, and bringing nothing in our hands,
we yearn for the healing, the holding, the accepting,
the forgiving that Christ alone can offer.

[Silence]

Merciful God, send now, in kindness,
your Holy Spirit to make our sharing in this bread and cup
a sharing in Christ's body and blood.
And let that same Spirit rest on us,
converting us from the patterns of this passing world,
until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share. **Amen.**³

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**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, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

³ John D. Witvliet and Emily Brink, eds., *The Worship Sourcebook*. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2004), 334.

The Pouring and Breaking and Serving

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life:

those who come to me will never grow hungry,
and those who believe in me will never be thirsty."

Lord, give us this bread forever. Amen.

Jesus said, "I am the true vine...

remain in me, and I will remain in you." **Amen.**¹

Communion Servers

John and Georgie DeLoach, Shell and Mary Dula,
Pam Faulkner, Reverend Martin

Hymns During Communion

#451

Be Thou My Vision

#508

Faith While Trees Are Still in Blossom

#369

Blessed Assurance

The Prayer Following Communion

We give you thanks, O Father,

**for the life and knowledge that you have made known to us
through you Son Jesus.**

Yours is the glory forever and ever.

**As this bread was scattered upon the mountains,
and being gathered together became one,
so may your church be gathered together
from the ends of the earth
into your kingdom;**

for yours is the glory and the power,

through Jesus Christ, forever and ever. Amen.²

¹ Colbert S. Cartwright and O.I. Cricket Harrison, eds., *Chalice Worship* (St. Louis, Mo.: Chalice Press, 1997), 417.

² *Ibid.*, 422.

Epworth Mother's Day Offering

As we continue celebrating the resurrection of our Lord this Easter season, we give thanks for hope and new life in Christ. Hope is born out of suffering. The children who call Epworth home are there because their lives have been difficult and hurtful. They understand suffering. They need hope – and Epworth provides that through a safe community with loving house parents who attend to their physical, educational, emotional, and spiritual needs. The greatest hope Epworth provides to the children is that which is placed in the promise of our Lord.

On Easter Sunday, Pastor Megan Gray at Epworth Children's Home baptized five children from Epworth. She welcomed each of them into the family of Christ – our family. These children belong to us – the people of God. God has entrusted them to us to care for them and help break the cycle of abuse, neglect, and shame they have experienced.

Next Sunday is Mother's Day and our congregation will receive the Annual Epworth Mother's Day Offering. Please give prayerful consideration to what God is calling you to give. The offering will be collected during worship. If you have questions, please go to the Epworth website at www.epworthchildrenshome.org.



Come eat at Moe's!
Wednesday, May 9
5:00 – 9:00 pm

During this time, Main Street UMC's Youth will receive 20% of the proceeds. Come help the youth raise money for their summer Spiritual Life Trip to Big Stuf Camp in July. All you have to do is place an order at Moe's from 5:00 – 9:00 pm on Wednesday, May 9!



Main Street's Got Talent and SILENT Dessert Auction WEDNESDAY, May 16

Dinner will be served beginning at 5:00 pm.

Show begins at 6:00 pm!

Make reservations like you would for any
Gathering dinner!

Talent acts and desserts needed!

Talent Act: _____

Name: _____

Dessert: _____

Name: _____

