

May 11, 2025
4th Sunday of Easter



Leading Worship Today:
Guest Preacher: Lisa Ellwoods
Lay Leader: Kathy Quady
Accompanist: Ralph Johansen

*Please read along with all **Bold** text
All are invited to stand when there is an **

Larger Print: Please see an usher if you would like larger print hymns and/ or bulletin.
Children's Bulletins: Please see an usher if you are interested in a children's bulletin.

PRELUDE Rhosymedre *Ralph Vaughan Williams*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

God is the creator of all, not just those who claim to be the people of God. God calls and welcomes all of humanity into community. We, who claim our love for Christ, are invited to extend extravagant welcome in both word and action to all of God's children everywhere.

GATHERING

CHORAL INTROIT Sing Praise *Patterson*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

From north and south... from east and west...

All are welcome here.

With hands raised high or hearts quietly pondering...

We come to worship God.

Bring our love, opening our minds...

We draw near to God, near to each other, and near to Christ the Word of God.

*OPENING HYMN **#518 Your Only Son (Lamb of God)**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION **1 Peter 3, John 14**

Spirit of Truth, speak truth to us, even when we wish to hide from the truth of our mistaken ways. Unveil our sins and shortcomings, that we might be clothed with your mercy and covered with your grace. In gratitude and love we pray. Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

1 Peter 3, John 14

Saved by love and covered in grace, we are forgiven and reconciled with God.

Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE**

#581 The Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Since we have been made righteous through Christ's faithfulness, we have peace with God. Let us also share peace with one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*The people may exchange with their neighbors, by words or gesture,
signs of peace and reconciliation.*

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Acts 17, John 14

Ever-speaking God, open our hearts and minds to seek your Spirit of Truth. Bless us with your wisdom and reveal the promise of your love through the reading of your holy word. Amen.

CANTICLE 15, THE MAGNIFICAT

Luke 1:46-55 (CEB)

46 Mary said, "With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

47 In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

48 He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.

Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored

49 because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is his name.

50 He shows mercy to everyone,

from one generation to the next,

who honors him as God.

51 He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.

52 He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones

and lifted up the lowly.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty-handed.

54 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,

remembering his mercy,

55 just as he promised to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 21:1-7 (CEB)

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3** I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "Look! God's dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." **5** Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look! I'm making all things new." He also said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." **6** Then he said to me, "All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring. **7** Those who emerge victorious will inherit these things. I will be their God, and they will be my sons and daughters.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

#100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-45 (CEB)

26 When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, **27** to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" **29** She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30** The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. **31** Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32** He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. **33** He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom."

34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?"

35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. **36** Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. **37** Nothing is impossible for God."

38 Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

39 Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. **40** She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. **41** When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. **42** With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. **43** Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? **44** As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. **45** Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Let It Be

Lisa Ellwoods

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

My Shepherd Is the Lord

Guiao Arr. Purifoy

"Let us present ourselves to God as those who have been delivered from death to life."

To contribute to our mission and ministry online, please scan the QR code.



*DOXOLOGY

#606 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*OFFERING PRAYER

BLESSING OF THE GARDEN

Holy Creator, in the beginning,

You created light and made the sun, moon, and stars.

Holy Creator, in the beginning,

You created the earth and made the rivers, lakes, and clouds that water the ground.

Holy Creator, in the beginning,

You created the grass of the field and made the trees and vines that produce fruit and seed.

Holy Creator, in the beginning,

You made the first human out of dirt and placed them in the garden.

Holy Creator, we thank you for the gift and responsibility that you have given us to be caretakers of this, your creation. Bless this our garden and the dirt therein,

That it may bear much fruit for the nourishment of bodies.

Bless this our garden and all who work therein,

That they may bear much fruit for the nourishment of bodies.

Bless this your church and all who find shelter here,

That we may bear much fruit for the nourishment of souls.

Bless, O God, the work of our hands, the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our minds, and the meditations of our hearts that the entirety of our lives might be a garden, bearing fruit for the nourishment of the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who tends the soil of our spirit as we tend the soil of the earth,

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Thanksgiving

God of creation, we give You thanks for the gift of life.

We may be created from the dust of the earth,

but You welcome us into a life of spiritual abundance,

as we commit ourselves to journey with Jesus.
You have designed us to be with one another,
and we express our appreciation for this community of Your people,
journeying through life together and embraced by Your divine presence.
We give thanks for our wider friendships and for our families
and the many bonds of care that connect us all.
May we never forget our indebtedness to those who give us nurture and support.
Lord in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Concern

Jesus our shepherd and redeemer,
You spoke eloquently of the fragility of human life,
and we see the evidence of this all around us today in a world full of conflict and violence. We pray
especially for those for whom the transience and fragility of life is their daily reality,
living with scarcity and danger as constant companions.
We pray for men, women and children who are starving and living in rubble,
and in the shadow of ferocious war.
We pray for those in our own neighbourhood who feel they are alone, afraid, or abandoned and who
do not know the love of God.
We remember all who are suffering today – and pray that You transform the hearts of all who choose
hate instead of love,
for politicians and world leaders who are driven by the attraction of power and disruption. We
remember especially the work of Christian Aid, its workers in places where their very lives are at risk
and for leaders who seek to navigate the narrow path in a world of ambition and exploitation.
We bring before you those known to us who struggle with their human fragility –
that they may discover in their weakness a renewed sense of Your love.
Lord in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Hope

Spirit divine, You never leave or forsake us, and though we are mortal, we live in the present hope of
eternal life with You.
Inspire us to live faithful lives, so that by being with You,
we can be filled with a transcendent love, peace and hope that we can carry out into the world.
Enliven our attention, energise our spirits, fill us with Your abundance and guide our steps, as we
walk confidently on the path You have set before us.
We turn to You in the faith-filled hope of reconciliation and resurrection.
May we know You more clearly, love You more dearly, and follow You more nearly,
as You call us from darkness to light, from despair to hope, and from fear to love.
Lord in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer

As we join together as Jesus Christ taught us to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN

#740 Lead Me, Guide Me

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go Now in Peace

Besig/Price

POSTLUDE

Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's liturgy has been adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2023* Edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu and <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship/monthly/2025-may/sunday-11-may-2025-fourth-sunday-of-easter-year-c#topic7>

All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

Sing Praise Mark Pterson ©2001 Choirsters Guild

#518 Your Only Son (Lamb of God) | TEXT: Twila Paris, 1985 | MUSIC: Twila Paris, 1985 | Text © Mountain Spring Music and Straightway Music (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com) Music © Mountain Spring Music and Straightway Music (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com) | John the Baptist calls Jesus "the Lamb of God" when he sees Jesus coming for baptism at the Jordan river (John 1:29, 36). Sacrificial lamb references appear in Acts 8:32 (quoting Isaiah 53:7) and 1 Peter 1:19 as well as in twenty-eight triumphant "Lamb" mentions in Revelation.

#100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout Text: Rory Cooney, 1990 Music: Irish Melody; arr Rory Cooney, 1990 Text and Music Arr. ©1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

My Shepherd Is the Lord Raymond Guiao, SJ Arr. John Purifoy © 1998 Lorenz Publishing Co. Published by Unity Music Press

#740 Lead Me, Guide Me | TEXT: Doris Akers, 1953 | MUSIC: Doris Akers, 1953; harm. Richard Smallwood | Text © 1953, ren. Doris Akers (admin. Chappell & Co., Inc./Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.) Music © 1953, ren. Doris Akers (admin. Chappell & Co., Inc./Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.) | This African American gospel hymn can well be understood as an updated adaptation of Psalm 5:8, with the "enemies" of the psalm treated as the pressures and temptations of daily life. As with the psalms, the "I" here is understood to express a shared communal experience.

Go Now in Peace Words by Don Besig and Nancy Price Music by Don Besig ©1988 Harold Flammer Music

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Brian's Sabbatical: Brian will be on Sabbatical from April 29th through July 28th. The Deacon of the Week is Liz Klaassen and the Elder of the Week is Chuck Klaassen. (May 12- May 18)

CCC: Wrapped in Love: Join us for our final Classes, Coffee, and Conversations next Sunday, May 18. Kelly Bares will be here to talk about one of our mission partners, Wrapped in Love. CCC will resume in September.

SPOT: Lectio Divina: Join us for SPOT on **May 19 at 7 pm** where we will learn about the practice of “divine reading”, Lectio Divina. This SPOT will be offered both in person and via Zoom. This is a practice that can deepen your relationship with God and help you hear his voice in your daily life.

UPCOMING THIS WEEK

Today May 11th	<i>Happy Mothers' Day!</i> 9:30am: Worship 10:30am: CCC: Who Am I?
Tuesday May 13th	9:00am: Crafty Ladies 9:00am: Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe 5:00pm: Missions Committee Meeting 6:30pm: Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday May 14th	7:00pm: Adult Choir
Thursday May 15th	7:30am: People of Faith 10:00am: Women of Faith 5:30pm: Racial Justice Reading Group via Zoom
Sunday May 18th	8:30am: 150th Planning Meeting 9:30am: Worship 10:30am: CCC: Wrapped in Love led by Kelly Bares

How can we pray for you?



Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.

BPC PRAYER LIST:

- Larry Pattee
- Dennis Sleetten, friend of Diane
- Sherry Sletten, friend of Diane
- Milla Spike, Kevin's granddaughter
- Lois Lindstrom
- Theresa
- Madree
- Jim, Elaine Thole's brother, following a diagnosis
- Donna, a friend of Lana Kopplin, who has cancer
- Jill, the niece of Al DeBellis, who has terminal illness
- Jonathon, a friend of Barb & Larry Janski
- Shannon, Virginia's former daughter-in-law
- Daniel Elliot
- Erva Hance
- Barb and Tom Stone
- Jan Brown, early morning Women of Faith
- Dennis Dietz, Virginia's friend
- Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter

- Jimm and Jodi Underwood, Lanny & Shirley's son-in-law and daughter
- Brittany Daniels
- John and Charlotte Collins


For peace in Ukraine and Russia,
Israel/Palestine, Congo, and around the world.

For our neighbor congregations in Buffalo and
for the congregations of our presbytery.

Your Only Son


Lamb of God

F C G7 C




1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
 2 Your gift of love, we cru - ci - fied; we laughed and
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have

Am F Gsus G7 C F C



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned him as he died; the hum - ble King we named a
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and


Am Fmaj7 C Fmaj7 G7 C



sod, and to be - come the Lamb of God.
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
 rod, and to be called a lamb of God.


Refrain

Am G C



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the

Am F Gsus G C F Em



ho - ly Lamb of God! O wash me in his pre - cious

Am Fm C Fmaj7 G7 C



blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

John the Baptist calls Jesus "the Lamb of God" when he sees Jesus coming for baptism at the Jordan River (John 1:29, 36). Sacrificial lamb references appear in Acts 8:32 (quoting Isaiah 53:7) and 1 Peter 1:19 as well as in twenty-eight triumphant "Lamb" mentions in Revelation.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer-or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



740

Lead Me, Guide Me

Capo 1: (D) Refrain (A7) (Em)

E^b B^b7 Fm

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you

(A) (D) (A7) (D)

B^b E^b B^b7 E^b

lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each

(A7) (B7) (Em) (D) (A7) (D)

B^b7 C7 Fm E^b B^b7 E^b Fine

day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

(D) (B7) (Em) (A7) (Em)

E^b C7 Fm B^b7 Fm

I am weak and I need your strength and power to help me

(A) (D) (D) (D7)

B^b E^b E^b E^b7

o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the dark-ness your

(Em) (D) (A7) (D)

Fm E^b B^b7 E^b to Refrain

face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This African American gospel hymn can well be understood as an updated adaptation of Psalm 5:8, with the "enemies" of the psalm treated as the pressures and temptations of daily life. As with the psalms, the "I" here is understood to express a shared communal experience.