

The Worship of God
Fifth Sunday of Easter – April 28 2024 – 9:00 Morning Worship
Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!

PRELUDE

“All Glory Be to God on High”

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

WELCOME

GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

As we gather, may our ears be opened to receive holy dialogue.

As we pause from our busy lives,

may our words be inspired in holy dialogue.

As we seek God’s wisdom,

may God interweave our presence and words to create holy dialogue.

In this time of worship, let us engage in holy dialogue,

as children of God seeking to learn,

seeking to teach,

seeking to be one.

OPENING PRAYER

Vine-grower,

during this time of worship, we come to grow and learn.

You offer us life, nourish us, and create a space to thrive.

May our worship draw us closer to you.

Shape and form our hearts and minds as we hear your word,

sing your praises, and seek your guidance through prayer.

Strengthen us to bear good fruit today and in the days to come.

In the name of the one who proclaimed, I am the vine.

Amen.

SING

“Love Divine All Loves Excelling”

#366

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Life-giving God,

you have gifted each with the ability to love,

yet there are times we fail to act in loving ways.

We confess there are times we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.

Instead, we have ignored, coveted, stolen from, and hurt

those who live in community with us.

We confess there are times when we reject the love of others.

Instead, we have been too proud, too busy, too narrow-minded,

too consumed with our own lives.

We confess there are times when we have not loved ourselves.

Instead, we have neglected our needs, denied ourselves forgiveness and grace,

put others before ourselves in unhealthy ways.

In each of these failures, we have distanced ourselves further from you,

our creator and sustainer.

In confessing these things, we desire to give and receive love more honestly and to abide with you fully.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved community, you are forgiven and have nothing to fear.
In the words of 1 John 4:18, "There is no fear in love,
but perfect love casts out fear..."

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

I invite you to turn to one another and share a sign of peace:
You're invited to unmute yourselves and exchange peace with one another

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

1 John 4:7-21

SECOND LESSON

John 15:1-8

...The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

Chaplain Tim Haworth

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SING

"Abide With Me"

#836 (1,3,4)

GIVING OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!"

#591

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We abide in you, God, and offer you our lives.

You use even what is pruned for the growing of your reign.

We bring the first fruits of our lives, the first fruits of our vines to you today.

We offer them with reverence and awe for the good of your reign.

May you use them in ways that bear good fruit.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD

SING

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

#316

SENDING

May we abide in the love that comes from God above.

May we live in love that is as expansive as all creation.

May we grow in love that calls us home.

May we know that love that blooms from us is Jesus Christ,
now and always.

POSTLUDE

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Carol Muehlig