

**The Worship of God**  
Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 15, 2022 – 9:00 Morning Worship  
**Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!**

PRELUDE

“Consolation”

Mendelssohn

WELCOME

**GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Imagine...

... a place where all are welcome

... and everyone hears the sound of their name.

Imagine...

... everyone having enough food and water

... and a home free of hatred and fear.

Imagine...

... a place where creativity is valued

... and the spirit is nurtured in love.

Imagine...

... just imagine

... this is that place.

**With one voice, one joy, one faith, one love we worship God together.**

OPENING PRAYER

We praise you, O God, for the gift of creation and the surprise of re-creation.

Open our eyes to see new things.

Open our minds to think fresh thoughts.

Open our communities to welcome new partners.

**Open our spirits to follow your Spirit.**

SING

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

#15

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The house of God is our home: a place of comfort, familiarity,  
of easily held opinions, common causes, and shared values.

A community that affirms our beliefs, traditions, understandings of the world.

God came to live among us – broke through every barrier of sense, wisdom, and experience  
to forge a new people, to build a new community without borders or boundaries.

Into our quiet complacency or our noisy divisions

God suggests another way,

breaking down our barriers,

crashing through our comfort zones

to the heart of what it is to live in God’s way.

So, we pause and ponder  
the inclusion we feel,  
the exclusion we create,  
the easy friendships,  
the like-minded gatherings,  
the many left outside.

Yet what might seem unclean is precious to God.  
What looks ungodly is counted worthy.  
Sinners made saints,  
outsiders pulled in to be warmed at the hearth –  
the walls of the community pushed out to make room.

Forgive us then the narrow-mindedness that excludes.  
Forgive us the tendency to disapprove and judge,  
and open hearts and arms to the life you promised.  
Open our doors to make room for those you would welcome.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Though we wander from the path,  
though we step out of the light,  
though we embroider the truth,  
though we deny the fullness of life –  
despite all this, Christ comes bearing life, light, truth, and new life to us all.

**We are made whole through Jesus the Christ.**

### LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 148

SECOND LESSON

Acts 11:18

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

REFLECTION

Rev. Susan Phillips

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SING

“Let All Things Now Living”

#37

#### REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Laura McKinney and Frank Schultz

Hear these words from Holy Scripture:

“There is one body and one Spirit,  
just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord,  
one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of all,  
who is above all and through all and in all.” (*Eph 4.4-6*)

...

With the whole church let us confess our faith:

**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,  
and 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 life everlasting. Amen.**

(Apostle's Creed – Ecumenical)

WELCOME AND SHARING THE PEACE

We praise God for calling us to be a servant people  
and for choosing to add to our numbers kindred in faith.

We are all one in Christ Jesus.

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you  
as members of the family of Christ!**

As God welcomes us all, let us share the welcoming peace of God with one another.

GIVING OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!”

#591

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Giver of Life, we share what we have received.

We dedicate these gifts as we rededicate ourselves

to preparing the way for a new heaven and renewed Earth,

where all people and all creation know the full measure of your peace.

May these gifts reflect a praise and gratitude for the work of your spirit,

drawing us ever deeper into the richness of relationship upon which we all depend.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT WINDOW

LORD'S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

**SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD**

SING

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

#14

SENDING FORTH

Jesus said, "Just as I have loved you,  
you also should love one another."

So go out in love, and find ways to love all whom you meet.

And in so doing, may others know that you are Christ's disciples.

POSTLUDE

"Toccata on Holy God We Praise Your Name"

Paula Romanaux