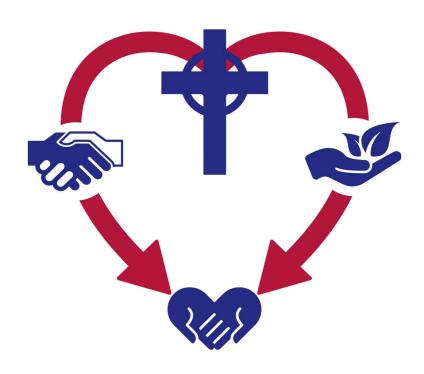
We are imperfect believers, passionate about sharing the love of Christ:

by Connecting, Growing, and Serving.



A Service of Worship for the Lord's Day Fourth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day May 11, 2025

Welcome! If you are visiting, please use the QR code on the visitor card found in the pew rack to share your information online or fill out the back of the card and drop it in the offering plate. Prayer cards, with the same options, are also available and we invite you to share your concerns and allow us to pray with you.



We Gather to Worship God

*Congregation stands as noted

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship (Isaiah 52,53)

Leader: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,

People: who bring good news, who announces salvation, who says, 'your God reigns.'

Leader: See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be lifted very high.

People: He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;

Leader: Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

People: But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities. Amen.

Invocation

*Opening Hymn #23

"God You Spin the Whirling Planets"

We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek Reconciliation with God

Preparing Our Hearts for Confession - "Confession" Words/Music by Kenneth Jones (front cover of hymnal)

Lord, I come before you, asking your forgiveness. I am broken, I have faltered. I have turned from you.

Create in me a new heart. Fill me with your love. Grant that I receive your grace, I pray.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison) (Isaiah 53)

Mothering God; all we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own ways. We distance ourselves from others thinking that they are less worthy of your grace, that they are less human than we are. We despise and reject others and make them acquainted with suffering on our behalf. We hide our face from the inequity that we have caused and hold as no account those who we force to bear our sin. We make others bear our crosses, insisting that their suffering makes us righteous, and we have made a cross for our savior as well. Yet your servant bore our sin, and even made intercession on behalf of his murderers. Help us to take up our own crosses, to bear the burdens of others; to bring the message of peace, good news, and salvation; to the ends of the earth. Amen.

Time of Silent Reflection and Personal Prayer of Confession

Leader: And all the people of Christ say,

People: Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon (Isaiah 54)

Leader: Seek the LORD while they may be found, call while God is near; Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD that God may have mercy upon them, for God will abundantly pardon.

People: Thanks be to God!

*Thanks for God's Forgiveness (#647; no repeats)

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" Give Thanks! Give Thanks!

*Passing of the Peace

Leader: Grace to you, and peace from God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

*Transition Hymn #75

"We Give Thanks to You"

We Respond to God's Faithfulness in Our Life

Offering Our Lives to Jesus through Our Time, Gifts, and Resources (see the 'Giving' card in the pew rack for information about options for digital giving)

*Doxology (#606)

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.

God's Word Is Read and Proclaimed

Time for Young Disciples

(Children are dismissed at this time for Children's Church and Bible Builds)

Special Music "Wonderfully Made" Kenneth Jones

words and music by Jay Stocker

Scripture Reading Acts 8:26-40

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Proclamation of God's Word

Rev. AJ Ochart

"What is to Prevent Me?"
Responding to God's Word

*Affirmation of Our Faith (Nicene Creed - Unison)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Responsive Hymn #317

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

Preparing Our Hearts for Prayer (#471)

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

Prayers for the People

Volunteer

Respond: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kin(g)dom 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 kin(g)dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sending Out Into the World

*Sending Hymn #759

"O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face"

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Benediction #246 (v.2)

"Christ Is Alive!"

*Postlude

<u>Sanctuary Flowers</u> – The flowers were placed in the sanctuary by Phil and Claudia Beckwith in honor of their daughter and in celebration of her birthday.

Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We hope you were blessed so you can go and be a witness to Christ's love in the world. May your spirits be renewed for the days ahead.



Rev. AJ Ochart, Pastor Kenneth Jones, Director of Music Rita Batman, Lay Leader

