

First United Presbyterian Church  
May 5, 2024  
Fifth Sunday in Easter

**GATHERING**

**CHIMES** Set your heart for worship, if you must whisper, let in be in prayer.

**PRELUDE**

**OPENING WORDS**

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And, also with you!**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Sing to the Lord a new song, a song of hope and rejoicing!

**All: Praise God for wonderful acts of mercy and kindness!**

One: God has remembered God's faithful ones.

**All: God has poured blessing upon blessing upon us!**

One: Praise the Lord, all the earth, shout your praise!

**All: Rejoice, for God is truly with us. AMEN.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

#358 Help Us Accept Each Other

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us and Bring us to believe:  
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all - not just for some,  
to love them as we find them or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us so that we may be moved  
in living situations to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,

we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Lord, we are not always good at staying the course. We get tired, and we stray from the path. Often we wait to see if someone else will take care of things. But we know that when we abide in you, we find the necessary endurance, and we find the energy and the courage to serve your children. Lord strengthen us, inspire us, abide in us and help us to abide in you. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

#### **\*RESPONSE TO PARDON**

#579 Gloria Patri

#### **\*PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

**All: And, also with you!**

One: Please pass the peace to those around you.

#### **\*GATHERING SONG OF PRAISE**

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me,

Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

### **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

Acts 10:44-48

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **GOSPEL READING**

John 15:9-17

### **SERMON**

"Abide"

-Rev. Greg Menssen

## **RESPONDING**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE**

#366 Jesus Thy Boundless Love

Jesus, Thy boundless love to me, no thought can reach, no tongue declare;  
O knit my thankful heart to Thee, and reign without a rival there.  
Thine wholly, Thine alone, I am; be Thou my Rod and Staff and Guide.

O grant that nothing in my soul may dwell, but Thy pure love alone!  
O may Thy love possess my whole, my Joy, my Treasure, and my Crown.  
All coldness from my heart remove; my every act, word, thought, be love.

O Love, how cheering is thy ray! All pain before Thy presence flies;  
care, anguish, sorrow, melt away, where'er Thy healing beams arise.  
O Jesus, nothing may I see, nothing desire or seek, but Thee.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE****INVITATION TO OFFERING****OFFERTORY****\*DOXOLOGY**

#592

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION****SENDING****\*CLOSING HYMN**

#388 O Jesus I Have Promised

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;  
be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my Guide.

O let me feel Thee near me, the world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, draw Thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear Thee speaking in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control!  
O speak, and make me listen, Thou Guardian of my soul!

O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee  
that where Thou art in glory there shall Thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend!

## **\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

(Please remain standing or seated until the Postlude is completed.)

## **POSTLUDE**

\*Denotes to please stand.

### **SERVING IN CHURCH TODAY**

Worship Leader: Organist: Tom Boone  
Welcome Team: Mike Brady, Mac Smith, Julie Pulfer, Andy Pulfer  
Deacons On-Call: Pam Ark, Judy Wical  
Nursery: Brenda Jenkins, Acolytes:

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Church Growth and Member Care Committee meets today 12:00pm.  
The VBS Planning Team meets Monday May 6, 5:00pm.  
The Book Study meets Tuesday May 7, 11:00am.  
The Stewardship and Finance Committee meets Wednesday May 8, 12:00pm.  
The CE Committee meets Wednesday May 8, 5:00pm.

### **CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY!**

May 5: Marcella Neeld, Riley Suman May 7: Joanne Ritter May 10: Nora McClelland

### **THOSE IN NEED OF OUR CONTINUED PRAYERS**

The Amidons Jadyne Plaughter June Coil James Mitchell Kathy Jo Putt  
Carl Wunderle Sherri Ullom Vicki Shafer The Morrisons Mark Brienza  
David Ritter Shirley Ritter Karen Primavera The Deardurff Family  
Kevin & Christina Horrigan

### **WITH US IN SPIRIT, BUT UNABLE TO JOIN US**

Sue Albano 2739 Co. Rd. #91 \*104 Belleft. 43311  
Lois Ashworth 209 E. Glen Belleft. 43311  
Bob Carter 6559 US Rt. 68 S. West Liberty 43357  
Joyce Core 2450 Co. Rd. #118 Rushsylvania 43347  
Bud and Mona Eichholtz 1328 Omaha Rd. Belleft. 43311  
Byron Fullerton 2739 Co. Rd. #91 \*316 Belleft. 43311  
Anne Heinlen 741 E. Sandusky Ave. Belleft. 43311  
Marcella Neeld 541 Center St. Belleft. 43311  
Nate Weber 608 Newford Dr. Belleft. 43311

Sunday: Pray for Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church  
Monday: Pray for Ben & Sara Stahler  
Tuesday: Pray for the Brandon and Bess Standley Family  
Wednesday: Pray for Julie Stephens  
Thursday: Pray for Nancy Stokes  
Friday: Pray for Michelle and Chris Suman Family