



**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
May 5, 2024 10:30 a.m.

*We give thanks for our guest musicians, made possible through the Lorraine and Art Edinger  
Memorial Music Fund*

### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Passacaglia" George Frederic Handel  
Hannah Frey, Violin; Manuela Topalbegovic, Violin;  
Amy Greenhalgh, Viola; Stephanie Hunt, Cello

*(\*) Indicates that all are invited to stand*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>(3)</sup> *(based on Psalm 98:4-6)*

One: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;  
**All: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**  
One: Sing praises to God with the lyre,  
**All: With the lyre and the sound of melody.**  
One: With trumpets and the sound of the horn,  
**All: Make a joyful noise before our God.**  
One: O sing to God a new song,  
**All: For God has done marvelous things.**

\*GATHERING HYMN "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" #12 *New Century Hymnal vv.1-2*  
*(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)*

**I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of our God that filled the earth with food;  
God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good.  
Oh, how your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye:  
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (3)**

God who opens the world, we confess that we are often the ones to leave doors closed.

**We are often the ones who build up the walls and break down the bridges.**

We are often the ones who want to define who people are as worthy of love or not.

**Yet you have continually drawn the circle wider.**

God, may we be open to your Spirit doing new things in our lives.

**May we be open to your people, who may not define themselves by narrow labels.**

Call us deeper into your ways of love that always open more doors, that lead us to inclusion and that center our thoughts and actions in the heart of your love.

*(silent confession)*

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Hear the good news! When everything else passes away, love remains. There is nothing you can do, no place you can go, where love will not be with you, where love will not find you.

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" v.3**

**On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glory known.**

**The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your throne.**

**All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;**

**Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there.**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

**CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

"The Lord is My Shepherd" Howard Goodall  
Alice Galt, Soloist

**LISTENING**

*God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.*

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

1 John 5:1-5

Pew Bible p.991

A Word of God that is still speaking,

**Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

**SILENT MEDITATION**

HYMN OF REFLECTION "We are One in the Spirit" #300 *Glory to God Hymnal*



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;  
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;  
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;  
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,  
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,  
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,  
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:  
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

**RESPONDING**

*We respond to God's Word through our prayers and our gifts.*

## NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### 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.**

OFFERTORY "Divertimento in D" Second Movement Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

\* RESPONSE OF PRAISE (tune: "Lasst Uns Erfreuen" *The Hymnal* #15)

**Praise God, the Giver and the Gift,**

**Hearts, minds and voices now uplift, Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise, praise the breath of glad surprise, Freeing, uplifting, opening eyes.**

**Three-In-Oneness, Love Communing, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

### INVITATION

#### COMMUNION PRAYER

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to thank you, God of all people, for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of human life. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with each other and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

### PRAYER OF CONSECRATION AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

*(All are welcome to share in the Sacrament of Communion! Elements will be served by ushers, and you are invited to hold the elements until we commune together. Wine trays contain white grape juice and red wine. A tray of gluten-free bread is available from usher in center aisle.)*

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(unison)*

**We give you thanks, O God, in each of our voices of praise. From the north and east, from the south and west, we call out to you in gratitude for the many ways you encounter us and the many places you call us on our pilgrimage of faith. Send us forth renewed and re-created, that we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.**

### \*COMMISSIONING HYMN: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" #347

*New Century Hymnal*

*(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)*

**Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:**

**Bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

**Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

*(repeat)*

**Christ is able to make us one, at his table he set the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. Refrain**

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out, bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere! Refrain**

### \*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Trumpet Voluntary" from "Melodic Suite" Charles Callahan

## SENDING

*With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.*

*Thanks to God, we at Hope United Church of Christ have good news to share. And we should feel compelled to share it, because there are people in St. Louis who are looking for a progressive and loving faith community. When we share Hope, we make it easier for them to find us!*

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### Worship Endnotes

(1) Adapted from [www.re-worship.blogspot.com](http://www.re-worship.blogspot.com)

(2) Adapted from Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1; Kimberly Bracken Long, editor.

(3) Adapted from [www.rev-o-lution.org](http://www.rev-o-lution.org).

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***Worship Leaders May 5, 2024***

Pastor: Sarah Fredriksen McCann

Organist: Jim Threlkeld

Liturgist: Tiffany Beardslee

Ushers: Members of Building and Property Ministry Team

YouTube: Andy Karcher

Tech team: Jim Richmann, Jack Jennings, Ron Geisel,

Kristine Wentzien, Kathleen Mees

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*Thanks for your contribution to the ministries of Hope UCC!*