

# An Order for the Worship of God

May 2, 2021 5th Sunday of Easter Paraments – White/Gold  
10:45 a.m. Live-Stream/In-Person

**Gathering Music** Mrs. Sylvia Friedl

## Invocation

**Voluntary** *Andante* G. F. Handel

**\*Call to Worship** Dr. Jan McNair

**Leader:** Beloveds, God calls us to come together in love.

**All: Love is from God.**

**Leader:** We all are called to live in God's love.

**All: Love is from God.**

**Leader:** When we live in God's love,  
our love overflows to others.

**All: Love is from God.**

**Leader:** Let us worship together in love.

**\*Hymn 156** *I Love to Tell the Story*

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

*(Refrain) I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems  
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.  
I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;  
and that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.  
*(Refrain)*

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.  
*(Refrain)*

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.  
*(Refrain)*

(Words: Katherine Hankey, ca. 1868)

**Scripture** 1 John 4:7-16, 19-21

## Responsive Prayer

How deeply you have loved us, Jesus;  
how willingly you stepped into our experience,  
how completely you empathized  
with all that we endure.

**Teach us to love as you have loved us.**

How sacrificially you have loved us, Jesus;  
how completely you gave yourself for us,  
how courageously you suffered for our sakes.

**Teach us to love as you have loved us.**

How restoratively you have loved us, Jesus;  
how generously you share your life,  
how extravagantly you make yourself available to us.  
**Teach us to love as you have loved us.**

**We praise you for your love  
which is given so freely and so unconditionally.  
And we thank you for believing  
that we can learn to offer such love  
to each other. Amen.**

**Meditation** *That Eastertide with Joy was Bright*  
arr. S. Eithun  
The Handbell Ensemble and Piano

## Concerns and Celebrations

**The Pastoral Prayer** Rev. Laura Shearer

**Scripture Lesson** Acts 8:26-40

**Sermon** *We Bear Witness in Unexpected Places*  
Dr. C. Mark Gooden

**Solo** *If I Can Help Somebody* A. Andruzzo

If I can help somebody as I pass along,  
if I can cheer somebody with a word or song,  
if I can show somebody he is traveling wrong,  
then my living shall not be in vain.

*(Refrain) Then my living shall not be in vain.*

*If I can help somebody as I pass along,  
then my living shall not be in vain.*

If I can do my duty as a Christian ought,  
if I can bring back beauty to a world up-wrought,  
if I can spread love's message that the Master taught,  
then my living shall not be in vain. *(Refrain)*

## Invitation to Holy Communion

**Prayer of Confession** (in unison)

**Merciful God,  
we confess that so often  
our discipleship has been weak.  
When we have failed to serve as Jesus served;  
forgive us.**

**When we have failed to love one another  
as Jesus loves us; forgive us.**

**When we have been happy  
to proclaim our devotion to Jesus with our lips  
and then deny him by our actions;  
forgive us.**

**Merciful God, empower us by your Spirit  
to have the courage to bear witness to your love,  
even in unexpected places,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Words of Assurance

**Passing of the Peace**

(continued)

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*(the liturgy continues...)*

## The Lord's Prayer

### Breaking the Bread and Blessing the Cup

### Sharing in Communion

*(The Communion Offering is for the*

*Hogar Para Ninos Metodista Orphanage in Cost Rica.)*

## Prayer after Receiving

**You have fed us, Lord, and we are grateful.**

**Allow us to respond this day,**

**and in the days to come,**

**with hearts made ready,**

**eyes made open,**

**hands made strong,**

**and feet made willing**

**to do your will in this place,**

**and in all the places to which you call us.**

**Amen.**

## Hymn 192 (St. 1,2,5,6)

*There's a Spirit in the Air*

There's a Spirit in the air,  
telling Christians everywhere:  
Praise the love that Christ revealed,  
living, working, in our world.

Lose your shyness, find your tongue;  
tell the world what God has done.  
God in Christ has come to stay.  
Live tomorrow's life today!

When a stranger's not alone,  
when the homeless find a home,  
praise the love that Christ revealed  
living, working in our world.

May the Spirit fill our praise,  
guide our thoughts and change our ways:  
God in Christ has come to stay.  
Live tomorrow's life today!

*(Words: Brian Wren, 1969. © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.  
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## Benediction

## Closing Voluntary *Allegro Maestoso* G. F. Handel

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**Organist:** David Patton

**Songleader:** James Harr

**Acolytes:** Emily and Ethan Tolar

**Handbell Ensemble:** Jane Southerland, Donna Harvey, Bobbie Howell, Laura Ashline, Martha Mackey, Rheba Vetter

## Do you feel the calling to help end homelessness?

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, thru the FUSE program, is offering Permanent Supportive Housing to people who are homeless and disabled by mental illness. Support services are available, but finding housing is a challenge.

There is a desperate need for one-bedroom and efficiency rental units. The HCSO FUSE team is looking for landlords who would be willing to accept less than "market rate" for the rent.

For those of you who own rental property, a member of the team would like the opportunity to talk further about this community need. Please contact Barb Bowen at [BarbandBillBowen@gmail.com](mailto:BarbandBillBowen@gmail.com) or call her at 423-667-1006 for more information.

## On Line Giving Change

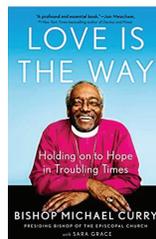
As a part of our recent website redesign, we have changed the platform that we use for electronic giving. Over the next six weeks we will be transitioning away from e-giving and begin Subsplash giving.

If that is how you are currently giving you should receive an email from our business office soon with details about how to switch over. It is easy to sign up and a great tool for generosity for our congregation.



## Attention Seniors

We want to do something extra special for you this year. We have been cheated out of your company because of this wretched pandemic! This is a small group though and we want to treat you all with your very own Senior Retreat. We have been in contact with most of our seniors already. We are looking at doing a mid-week retreat so that everyone can go. The tentative dates are: June 6 - 8. That is Sunday (evening) through Tuesday (afternoon).



## Join us for Wednesday Night Bible Study

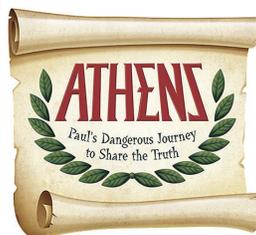
Wednesdays May 5 – May 26  
@ 6:30 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/93270919216?pwd=OEhCcGJUdlp4Uk53aFUwM3ZoZG0zdz09>

## Your Children's Ministry Needs YOU!

Do you feel the gentle tap, nudge, or pull of God? There is nothing quite like sharing Jesus's love with children; watching their faces light up in awe of their Heavenly Father is incredibly rewarding. Call Beth today to join us for a short hour full of laughter on Sundays and your heart will be smiling all week! ~ bspears@fcumc.org, 423.756.2021

## VBS July 19-23, 2021



Free gift for everyone who registers early!

**Sign up or Volunteer Today!**

