

May 10, 2026 – 5th Sunday of Easter  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

**ORDER FOR WORSHIP**

**Introduction and Welcome**

**Preparation for Worship / Breath Prayer**

**GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Responsive Call to Worship**

Bless our God, O peoples;  
let the sound of praise be heard!  
God has kept us among the living  
and has not let our feet slip.

**We went through fire and through water,  
yet God has brought us out to a spacious place.**

Come and hear what God has done for us,  
all who fear God.

**Surely God has listened to us  
and heard our prayers!**

**Blessed be God, who is steadfast love.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Faithful God,  
through all the ages,  
you have kept your promises.  
You have freed us from  
the powers of scarcity and death  
for abundant new life.  
Stay with us as we wait  
and watch for your Spirit  
with excitement and hope,  
that we may experience your love  
and share it with our lives,  
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn No. 366 – *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling***

**1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion;  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.**

**2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit;  
let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.**

**3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.**

**4 Finish then thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

**Children's Song – *Where Children Belong***

**This, this is where children belong,  
welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.  
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:  
this is where children belong.**

**Children's Lesson and Prayer**

Great Big God,  
**Great Big God,**  
you are like so many things:  
**you are like so many things:**  
a mother, a father, a friend,  
**a mother, a father, a friend,**  
and so much more.  
**and so much more.**

Thank you for all the ways  
**Thank you for all the ways**  
you have given us  
**you have given us**  
to know the mystery of you.  
**to know the mystery of you.**

Amen.

**Amen.**

**Announcement Reminders**

## CONFESSING

### Call To Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

Holy One,  
We love you imperfectly:  
we do not always keep your commandments.  
We love each other imperfectly:  
we hurt those you call us to love  
through our actions and our inaction.  
We love ourselves imperfectly:  
we struggle to believe  
that we are truly your children,  
made in your image.  
Forgive us.  
By the power of your Spirit,  
make us more faithful  
that we might live as Christ has shown us,  
reflecting your love and grace.

#### Assurance of Pardon

#### Response No. 447 – *We Are Forgiven*

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

#### Passing the Peace of Christ

And now as forgiven people, I say to you:  
the Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also, with you.**

## LEARNING

**Anthem** – *Abide with Me* – Gilbert M. Martin, arranger

#### Prayer for Illumination

**Scripture Lesson** – *John 14:15-21* (NRSVue)

#### Sermon

**\*Affirmation of Faith** – adapted from *The Confession of 1967*, 9.22

**New life in Christ takes shape  
in a community in which people know  
that God loves and accepts them  
in spite of and because of what they are.  
They therefore accept themselves and love others,  
knowing that no one has any ground  
on which to stand, except God's grace.**

## WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Presentation of New Members

Scripture Reading

Vows of Commitment for New Members

Questions to Congregation

Welcome Prayer

Presentation of Gifts

### RESPONDING

Hymn of Response No. 407 (vs. 1, 4, 5) – *Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers*

1 Spirit divine, attend our prayers,  
and make this house your home.  
Descend with all your gracious powers.  
O come, great Spirit, come!

4 Come as the dove and spread your wings,  
the wings of peaceful love.  
And let the church on earth become  
blest as the church above.

5 Spirit divine, attend our prayers.  
Make a lost world your home.  
Descend with all your gracious powers.  
O come, great Spirit, come!

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

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 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.

## Offering

**\*Doxology No. 606 – *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow***  
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.

## **\*Prayer of Dedication**

O Lord our maker, defender,  
redeemer and friend,  
accept and multiply the gifts  
we give today to be for your glory  
and for the good of your people. Amen.

## SENDING

**\*Sending Hymn No. 121 – *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise***  
1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:  
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.  
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

## **\*Charge and Benediction**

## Postlude

### WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Lora East, Pastor  
David Carpenter, Acolyte  
Tucker Gibson, Liturgist  
Erika Stiner, Director of Children's Spirituality  
Melissa Richard, Moderator to Session  
Paula Gentner, Deacon Moderator  
Christian Carpenter, Media Technician  
Zachary Ridgway, Organist / Pianist  
Keith Martinez, Director of Choral Music  
The UPC Adult Choir  
Bud Eaton & Janifer Meldrum and Art & Sandy Nicholson, Greeters

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Liturgy from *Call to Worship Journal* May 10, 2026.