

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

5th Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Loving God, you are the vine and we are your branches.

Our life flows from you.

Our very being is yours.

By your Spirit in us, we root ourselves deeply in your presence,
and receive your Word.

Bless us that your grace may flow through us,

that we may bear the fruits of your Spirit.

We pray in the name of Christ, in the Presence of Christ, as the Body of Christ. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude on Shaker Song

Wilbur Held

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Vince Leseney

In the wilderness, water brings life.

Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior
nourishes everyone.

Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.

Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

*SONG OF PRAISE

God of the Sparrow

Hymnal, No. 22

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

God of mercy,

**we confess that we have not borne the fruit
of the Spirit.**

We have not loved others as you have loved us.

**We have denied the promises of baptism
and cut ourselves off from you.**

Forgive us, restore us,

that we may abide in your love

and live out your mercy,

for the sake of Jesus Christ,

in whose name we pray. Amen.

(Time of silent reflection)

Believe the promise given to you:

in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Glory To God

Hymnal, No. 582

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen
World without end, without end. Amen (x3)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen*

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Larry Upton

SCRIPTURE READING

I John 4:7-12, 19-21

Page No. 991

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 22:25-31

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.
May your hearts live for ever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord;

**and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.**

For dominion belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.

**Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord,**

and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-8

Page No. 878

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

MESSAGE

Roots, Vines and Branches

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

For the Fruit of All Creation

Hymnal, No. 36

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Col. 1:15–20

**New life in Christ takes shape in a community
in which people know
that God loves and accepts them
in spite 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.**

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.22

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Response: ... God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

*Please pray the Lord's Prayer
in the language and wording most familiar to you.*

THE OFFERING
OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymnal, No. 609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*DEDICATION PRAYER

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Hymnal, No. 526

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

Toccata on Lobe den Herren

Gordon Young

*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for April 28: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17.

The Food & Shelter items of the month for April are juice & handheld can openers. **Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.**

Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

Envelope Fundraiser!

We are raising money to assist our children and youth in attending camps and conferences. You'll find envelopes decorated by our Kids' Club in the hallway off the sanctuary. You can take one or more envelopes; the idea is to give the amount that is on the envelope. Giving more is also an option!

Samuel McCann will be hosting a Bible study in the library on the letters of Paul in the New Testament. While paying attention to Paul's historical context we will try to pursue what his contribution to Scripture means for how we understand the Gospel for our life today. We will begin May 14 at 6 pm in the library and will not meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month so session members are free to join.

God of the Sparrow

C Em Am Dm G

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the

C F E7 Am Em F Em

swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy

Am Dm 1-5 Gsus G 6 C

How does the crea - ture say Praise
 How does the crea - ture cry Save
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 How does the crea - ture say Life
 How does the crea - ture say Peace
 How do your chil - dren say Home

For the Fruit of All Creation

36

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -

sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

526 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one; at the ta - ble he
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a



shout of joy: bread is bro - ken; the wine is poured;
 sets the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:



Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain;
 God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!



earth can breathe a - gain; pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!