

WORSHIP ORDER
Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2025

PRELUDE

“Lotus Blossom”

Billy Strayhorn/Arranged by Alec Wyton

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill Newsom

PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

We greet one another with signs and words of peace.

*SONG OF CENTERING

“In the Bulb There is a Flower” vs. 1

NCH#433

Margaret Stearns, 1902

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Liturgist: Today, the word of God comes to us, in love,

ALL: inviting us to not be afraid, but to place our faith in God.

Liturgist: Today, the word of God comes to us, in faith,

**ALL: inviting us to trust in the One who knows us,
 to place our hope in the One who saves us.**

Liturgist: Today, the Word of God comes to us, in hope,

ALL: inviting us to be gracious in our love and in our service to others.

Let us pray:

God our Creator, you lift up those who are beaten down.

Jesus, Brother to the poor, you are in our midst.

Spirit of God, you make all our places holy.

Teach us to welcome and love everyone,

In the name of our three-in-one God,

God in community, holy in one.

ALL: Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”

NCH#230

1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness;
 2 Spring has dawned on earth to - day; Christ has burst from pris - on;
 3 Now the joy - ous sea - son, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4 Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dim por - tal,

God has brought all Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness;
 And from three days' sleep in death as the sun has ris - en;
 With the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joys to ren - der;
 Nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor - tal;

Loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
 All the win - ter of our sins, long and gray, is fly - ing
 Comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem who with true af - fec - tion
 But to - day a - mid the twelve you still stand, be - stow - ing

Led them with un - moist-ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 From the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 Wel-comes in un - wear - ied strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.
 Peace and joy which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.

The Pastor invites the congregation to be seated.

FIRST READING – Acts 9:1-20

Liturgist

Liturgist: The conversion of Saul, also called Paul, on the road to Damascus is foundational for the early church. A reading from Acts chapter 9.

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing death threats against Jesus' disciples, went to the high priest asking for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way of Christ, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

He asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what to do." The men who were traveling with Saul stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one.

Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he could not see and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord."

The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to Straight Street, and at the house of Judas look for a man from Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."

But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name."

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for I have chosen him to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately he could see again. Then he got up and was baptized, and after eating he regained his strength.

For several days Saul was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

This is the word of God for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

CHOIR ANTHEM

“I Greet You, Sure Redeemer”

Anonymous/Toulon

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

Bill Newsom

Dismissal of Children

GOSPEL READING

Bill Newsom and Liturgist

John 21:1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Galilee, in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples. Peter said to them,

Peter (Liturgist): “I’m going fishing.”

They said to him, “We’ll go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that whole night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus called out to them, “Hey guys, you catching anything?” They answered him,

Peter: “No.”

Jesus said to them, “Put the net down on the other side of the boat, and you will catch some.” So they moved the net, and soon they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.

That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!”

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. The other disciples came in the

boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were only about a hundred yards from land.

When they had come ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come have breakfast.”

None of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. This was the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” Peter replied,

Peter: “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he asked, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter said to him,

Peter: “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.”

Jesus told him, “Tend my sheep.” He asked him a third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to Jesus,

Peter: “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

“Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.) After this he said to Peter, “Follow me.”

This is the Gospel, the good news of Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God!

The Liturgist invites the congregation to rise in body or spirit and sing the next hymn

*SONG OF RESPONSE

“Listen To Your Savior Call”

NCH#250

1 Lis - ten to your Sav - ior call, “Do you love me most of all?”
2 “I de - liv - ered you when bound, and, when bleed - ing, healed your wound.
3 “Mine is an un - chang - ing love, high - er than the heights a - bove,
4 O my Sav - ior, hear my need: though my love is faint in - deed,

Je - sus speaks, and speaks to you: “Love me as I first loved you.”
Sought you wan - dering, set you right, for your path - way gave you light.”
Deep - er than the depths be - neath, free and faith - ful, strong as death.”
Still I love you and a - dore— oh, for grace to love you more!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The first system contains four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains four lines of lyrics. The music is in 4/4 time and G major.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Bill Newsom

Pastor: ...We pray to you, our mother, using the words he gave us,
Saying together,

People: **Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours now and forever.
Amen.**

OFFERING

Bill Newsom

Ushers will come forward to receive the offering.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

Praise Je - sus Christ, who rose from death! Praise to the Source of life and

breath! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Praise to the Spir-it, ho-ly

dove, Giv - er of life, of peace, of love. Al-le - lu - ia! Christ is

ris - en! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en! Al-le - lu - ia! A - men.

*CHARGE

Liturgist

Go forth now as God's people.

**We will go to offer joy to those in misery,
to remember all who have been forgotten.**

Go forth now as sisters and brothers of Jesus.

**We will go to offer the best rooms of our hearts to the lonely,
to pick up all those who have been knocked down.**

Go forth now as people of the Spirit.

**We will go to share a double portion of grace with the empty,
to invite others to walk the paths of faith with us.**

*SONG OF PARTING

"Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult"

NCH#172

1 Je-sus calls us, o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild, rest-less sea;
2 As of old, Saint An-drew heard it by the Gal - i - le - an lake,
3 Je-sus calls us from the wor-ship of the trea-sures we a - dore,
4 In our joys and in our sor-rows, days of toil and hours of ease,
5 Je-sus calls us! By your mer-cies, Sav-ior, may we hear your call,

Day by day that voice still calls us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, fol - low me."
Turned from home and toil and kin-dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
From each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, love me more."
Je - sus calls, in cares and plea-sures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these."
Give our hearts to your o - be-dience, serve and love you best of all.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains five lines of lyrics, and the second system contains five lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style.

*BENEDICTION

Bill Newsom

POSTLUDE:

"Prelude in Classic Style"

Gordon Young

**Indicates that congregation is invited to rise and body and spirit.*