



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

9:00am

“I am the true vine...” John 15:1

Prior to the service you are invited to prepare yourself for worship. Some people prefer to meditate or pray, while others may chat quietly with their fellow-worshippers as a way to connect and focus. As the prelude begins, please prepare for worship in quiet attentiveness.

Prelude

Aria

Georg Philipp Telemann

Welcome

Our worship leaders draw our attention forward and upward.

*Call to Worship

Psalm 22:25-26

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

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

We focus our attention first on God’s Glory and offer our praise in word and song.

*Opening Prayer

Eternal and All-Loving God, we gather today to thank you for your ever-present care and infinite providence.

You have blessed us with life and a sense of purpose for living that life. Not content to do all the work yourself, you revealed your way to us and allow us to work with you as extensions of your grace. You give us what we need to be fruitful for you. We praise you as the Giver of All Life. Amen!

*Hymn # 305 (You are invited to hum the melody)

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

Reflecting on God's glory makes us aware of our common sinfulness and need for forgiveness.

*This honesty before God and each other opens our hearts
to receive God's forgiveness, which we celebrate with word and song.*

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

Like a vine and branches, you connect us to you, providing nourishment and direction for every area of our lives.

**While you are anxious for your power to flow through us,
we are not as ready to be so public with your love.**

**To be your branches means that we will spend our very lives
being your conduits of love for other people.**

Many of these people we do not know. We differ from them in many ways.

Forgive us, Empowering God, for not being zealous enough in our discipleship.

Urge us onward, so that we may bear your fruit for all to enjoy. Amen.

God will not fail in fulfilling promises now or ever.

God hears our prayers and will respond to them.

You know that God loves you and desires to save the world through you.

We celebrate together:

In Jesus Christ we all are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen!

Response

Meineke

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Ministry Updates

Tithes and Offerings may be placed in the offering basket in the narthex before or after service

The Scriptures hold a central place in our worship, and so they are read early and often.

*We ask God to inspire both the reading and the hearing of these words
and listen for what God may reveal in them.*

*The music and messages are designed to help interpret the Scriptures
and assist us in applying them to our daily living.*

Prayer for Illumination

**Thank you, Enlightening Lord, for sharing with us these blessed and holy Scriptures.
When we think of the saints in the early church, who were just learning about Jesus
the Risen Christ, we realize how fortunate we are to have these words as our
guides. Bless us with understanding today, so that the fruit that we bear will be
sweet and hopeful for all who taste it. Amen!**

Scripture Reading

John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Children’s Message

*Following the children’s message, kids are invited to meet Ms. Sara for story time in Fellowship Hall.
They will return to their families for communion after the sermon.*

Response

God of Great and God of Small

Sermon

“Growing Easter Fruit”

Bob Sheldon

After hearing God’s Word, we desire to respond in word and in deed.

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and 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.

Partaking of the Elements

You are invited to partake of the bread and cup.

Communion music

Agnus Dei from the Coronation Mass
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Prayer after Communion

In this meal we have tasted and seen that you are good, O Lord.

**Give us hearts filled with your love, minds zealous to know you,
hands and feet willing to serve you, and wills set on following you into the
world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*We are sent into the world to bear witness to God’s glory and love,
knowing that God has gone ahead of us to prepare the way
and the people we will encounter.*

Worship ends on this hopeful note and continues in all we do and become.

*Hymn # 366 (You are invited to hum the melody)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*Blessing and Response

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God
Johann Sebastian Bach

*You are invited to stand as you desire.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRES

Leading us in worship today are Rev. Bob Sheldon, Interim Pastor; Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor; Sandor Kadar, Director of Music; Evelyn Stohlman, soprano; Madison Smith and Ron Ford, trumpet; David Sabella, timpani. Our greeters are Barbara Lade and Judy Reynolds.

About Today's Service A great joy of being a Christian is the opportunity to "bear fruit," to fulfill the designs God placed within you. In order to experience this joy, we want to stay connected to God's life-giving source, Jesus Christ.

Prayer for Today Help me today, dear God, to realize how much you trust me and entrust to me your kingdom's work. Thank you for letting me be part of a church where I can work with other people, people who wonder and doubt as I do, and help us all to discover the next step in becoming more connected to you. Amen.

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of Mary Hendricks who passed away in December of 2018. She was a member from January 27, 1982 to December 2018.

The Sacrament of Baptism is being administered today during the 10:42 worship service to Connor Jack Skinner, born June 10, 2019, son of Benjamin and Leanne Skinner.

Sunday mornings with children – Beginning today, children who attend worship in person will be invited to join Ms. Sara in Fellowship Hall for story time during the sermon. For those not comfortable returning in person, Sunday School will continue to be offered on Zoom at 10:00 every Sunday morning. The nursery is not yet open, but Herron Lounge is available a space for families to watch and listen to service while children play. We are excited to see our youngest disciples in person again soon!

Upper Room Devotional Booklets- Copies of the May/June issue of Upper Room are available at the Welcome Center, or please contact Elizabeth Hess (ehess@firstpreswc.com) if you would like a copy sent to you. These booklets include a Scripture, a short devotion, and a prayer for each day.

New Members Class - We'll be having a New Members Class over Zoom on Sunday, May 16 at 11:30 a.m. If you or someone you know would like to find out more about becoming a member of First Pres, please sign up with Elizabeth Hess (ehess@firstpreswc.com). All are welcome!

Mother's Day Flower Sale - The annual Mother's Day Youth Flower Sale is a wonderful tradition that supports the Youth Program and adds beauty to the day for family and friends. Please see firstpreswc.com/youthflowers for information about ordering. Contact Stacy Tukloff-Vasant (jimnstace@gmail.com or 484-459-3374) with any questions. **Pre-orders are needed by Tuesday, May 4 at 5 p.m.

Happy Anniversary Sandor! It was five years ago this week that Sandor came to First Pres. He has blessed us with joy, humor, and inspiring music ever since.

2021 Contributions: Current contributions as of 4/21/21 are \$367,074 out of \$1,047,133 budgeted.