

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: Loving God, bless these gifts with love. Transform lives with our ministries, that your people everywhere might know your grace, abide in your love, and connect with Christ, the vine of life. Amen.

HYMN *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* Blue Chalice Hymnal, #643

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the strength of God sustain us.
May the power of God preserve us.
May the hands of God protect us.
May the way of God direct us.
May the love of God go with us this day and forever.

All people: Amen.

CANDLE EXTINGUISHING Acolyte

POSTLUDE Mr. Kevin Crone

References

- The *Call to Worship* is from faith & giving by ©2024 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- The *Prayer of Confession* is from Rev-o-lution by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell
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April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANDLELIGHTING

PRELUDE

Acolyte
Mr. Kevin Crone

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We come to worship this morning from different places.
Congregation: O God, do not be far from us.
 Pastor: We come to worship this morning for different reasons.
Congregation: O God, do not be far from us.
 Pastor: We experience the presence of the Spirit in different ways.
Congregation: O God, do not be far from us.
 Pastor: We hear Jesus’ words with different ears.
Congregation: O God, do not be far from us.
 Pastor: “Deny yourselves.”
Congregation: O God, do not be far from us.
 Pastor: “Take up your cross.”
Congregation: O God, do not be far from us.
 Pastor: “Follow me.”
All: O God, we thank you for drawing near to us in this place, in our lives. Amen.

HYMN *I Am Thine, O Lord* Blue Chalice Hymnal, #601

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Family of God, moments come when we stand exposed, our failings, our hurtful words, our harmful ways are open for all to see. But God takes these moments, and these sins, redeeming them through compassion and love, making us new people, children of the Living God. Let us come, in these moments, with our prayers to the One who waits to forgive us and make us whole. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: Awesome God, we confess that we have allowed fear to rule our lives. We have allowed fear to keep us from loving our neighbors who are different than us. We have allowed fear to close our doors, our hearts, our minds. But You are Perfect Love, and You cast out all fear. Help us

to let go of what holds us back and to be open to Your Spirit, to love freely, and to love deeply. We know that our hearts may be broken but help us anyway to love those most in need, the most vulnerable, and guide us into ways of love and care that help heal our brokenness. In the name of Christ, the One who laid down his life for us because he loved us so much, we pray all things. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Having heard the good news and being assured of God's love and grace, our only response is one of gratitude. Let us sing our Hallelujahs!

PRAISE HYMN

Halle, Halle, Halle

BLUE Chalice Hymnal, #41

(Online worshipers are encouraged to send greetings of peace and joy in the online comment section. In-person worshipers, please take a moment to send an IM or text message of joy and love to someone who isn't in worship today.)

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor: Abiding in God's love, let's share signs of love and peace with one another.

(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

HYMN

Healer of our Ev'ry Ill

Blue Chalice Hymnal, #506

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

EPISTLE READING

1 John 4:7-21

GOSPEL READING

John 15:1-8

SERMON

Rev. Laura Baker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gracious God, you have promised to hear us when we pray to you, and we desperately need your guidance and care. We are a people who often walk around with a long list of concerns and worries on our minds.

Congregation: What a gift it is to come and offer them to you — for you are the author of all grace and goodness.

Pastor: We worry about the state of the world. More people die in Gaza and Ukraine, and we grieve it all. We pray for your peace to come to every war zone in the world and for leaders to be filled with a spirit of reconciliation and care. We worry about the state of our nation. In the run-up to the presidential election, it seems that divisiveness still reigns and that our very democracy is threatened. Remind us, Lord, of the

greater good. May we focus not so much on ourselves, but on what we can do as a nation for those who need help the most.

Congregation:

Let us live into our highest ideals and may we be agents of unity in a difficult time.

Pastor:

We worry about our communities. May your hand be in all of our decisions as a community so that we can be a light unto the world. We worry about our those who are sick and suffering. It is difficult to witness illness, and we give you thanks for all the doctors and medical workers who live into their calling with grace and care. Help us each to offer a kind word and helping hand when we are able. May your Spirit be with all who suffer, giving them each a peace that passes all understanding. We worry about our families. We pray for your blessing on big families and small families, blood families and families of choice. We pray for our church family.

Congregation:

May the bonds of loyalty and love that unite us with others be strengthened and may we share love with all.

Pastor:

Lord, all that we know of goodness and love is found in the person of Jesus Christ and so we now join our voices together in the prayer that he taught us saying,

All people:

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist:

God is always with us, not just when everything seems clear and times are good, but also when we struggle with questions and doubt. When we cry out to God, our prayers are heard. When the world cries out to God, God hears too and we are part of God's answer, offering nourishment to a world that is hungry. Our gifts this morning are part of our answer. Please stand as you are able. Now, let us dedicate what we give with a song and a prayer.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

OFFERING RESPONSE

We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise

We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.

We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.

***And we offer up to you, the sacrifices of thanksgiving
and we offer up to you the sacrifices of joy.***