

Welcome to Church of Christ
May 18, 2025 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter
We are honored to worship God with you today!

Prelude *Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now* - J. G. Walther

Call to Worship (adapted from Ps. 1) ~Ruth Adotte

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song,
for God has done marvelous things.

**People: God's victory has been made known;
the vindication of the Lord is clear.**

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

**People: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with trumpets and the sound of the horn.**

Leader: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

**People: Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy!**

Hymn 23 *All Creatures of Our God and King (Worship and Rejoice)*

Vs 1 All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing Alleluia, Alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam, and silver moon with softer gleam, O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Vs 2 O rushing wind that art so strong, you clouds that sail in heaven along, O praise him, Alleluia!
O rising morn in praise rejoice, O lights of evening, find a voice, O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Vs 3 O flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your Lord to hear, Alleluia, Alleluia!
O fire so masterful and bright, providing us with warmth and light, O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Vs 4 All you who are of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part, sing praises, Alleluia!
All you who pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on him cast your care, O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Vs 5 Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness, O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One, O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (trespasses/debts)

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 trespasses (debts), as we forgive those who trespass against us (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.

Anthem *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* - K. Medema, arr. M. Hayes

Scripture Acts 15:1-11 ~Ruth Adotte

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. 3 So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the gentiles and brought great joy to all the brothers and sisters. 4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. 5 But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses." 6 The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. 7 After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. 8 And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us, 9 and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. 10 Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? 11 On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

Sermon "Putting God to the Test - Why?"

Hymn 598 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken (Worship and Rejoice)*

Vs 1 Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God; he whose Word cannot be broken formed you for his own abode. On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake your sure repose? With salvation's walls surrounded, you may smile at all your foes.

Vs 2 See, the stream of living waters, springing from eternal love, well supply your sons and daughters and all fear of want remove. Who can faint while such a river ever will their thirst assuage? Grace, which like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age.

Vs 3 Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear, for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near! Thus deriving from their banner light by nightstand shade by day, safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them on their way.

Vs 4 Savior, since of Zion's city I through grace a member am, let the world deride or pity, I will glory in your name. Fading are the world's best pleasures, all its bloated pomp and show; solid joys and lasting treasures none but Zion's children know.

Light of Service *LARC - The ARC of Litchfield County* ~Connie Wright

We have a chance to offer financial gifts in support of Spirit-led work. Undesignated gifts go to the recipient named above. Please use the white envelopes in the pews to designate giving otherwise. There is no obligation, and we always welcome prayers for our LOS recipients. Thank you!

Offertory *We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace* - Spiritual, arr. U.S. Moore

Doxology (two versions are offered) Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen. OR: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Sharing Joys and Church Life Updates

Sharing Prayer Concerns

Silent Prayer and Meditation

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn 600 *In Christ There Is No East or West (Worship and Rejoice)*

Vs 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no pride of birth; the chosen family of God has blessed now spans the whole wide earth.

Vs 2 For God in Christ has made us one from every land and race; has reconciled us through his Son and met us all with grace.

Vs 3 It is by grace we are assured that we belong to him: the love we share in Christ our Lord, the Spirit's work within.

Vs 4 So brothers, sisters, praise his name who died to set us free from sin, division, hate and shame, from spite and enmity!

Vs 5 In Christ there is no east or west - he breaks all barriers down; by Christ redeemed, by Christ possessed, in Christ we live as one.

Our Common Commission

Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude *Fugue in D* (excerpt) - D. Buxtehude

Please remain seated to listen or depart quietly.

We gladly list these prayer concerns and ask you to keep us apprised of any updates so that we have the most current information. If you would like a pastoral visit please call or email Pastor Erick (860-303-0910, reverendole@gmail.com).

Members needing our prayers:

Patty Cammilletti, Steven, Tina & Aaliyah Chausse, Peter Coffeen, Linda Creedon, Bonnie Greenwood, Holly Kelsey, Will Kelsey, Arlene Patten, Dan Patten, Cindy Sinclair, John Thew, Dawn Weaver

Ongoing concerns for our relatives and friends:

Annattie P., Eric, Jo, Kelly, Andrew Anderson (Ruth Adotte), Jay Atkinson, Margo Beers (Dave's mother), Andrea Blacklow (friend of Kristin Mudge), Denis Combes (Jason Combes' father), Nancy Foster (Olsen family friend), John Funchion, Fran and Arnold Gellman (Tina Olsen), Dennis Carr Hannifin (Sally & Larry's son), Olivia Howard (Ky Byrne's cousin), Jim Korner (Liz Wilbur's brother), Bethany Lee, Lynne Martin (Ruth Adotte), Rick Martin (Ruth Adotte), Jackie Nocotera, Bill Patrick (Lyn's husband) and family, Rev. Kenric and Debbie Prescott, Constance Rotondo, Ryan Sterba, Rob Thew, Sue Ellen Thomas (Pastor Erick's sister), Dennis Watlington (Tim Hitchcock), Judi Welch, Gretchen Wierdsma

Those who are grieving the families of:

Donna Aakjar, Robert Battis, Bonnie Ferrell, Stephen Getz, George Green, Judy Green, Jackie Hamad, John Marinelli, Don Martin, Will Martin, Will Minton, Avery Nelson, Mary Sager

In the wider community:

Jamie (nurse volunteering in Myanmar), Leigh Cappabianca (missionary in Turkey), Laura Smith (missionary in Venezuela), The people of Haiti, Israel, Gaza, Ukraine - and all enduring ongoing violence, The people of Syria, particularly the Christian community, Pravaham Community in India, Hope Builders Home and the people of Puerto Rico