

Welcome to Church of Christ
May 4, 2025 ~ Third Sunday of Easter & Communion
We are honored to worship God with you today!

Prelude Anthem *Celtic Laud* - Courtney and Martin

Call to Worship

~Heather Thomson

Leader: From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before God.

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

Leader: All the ends of the earth shall turn to the Lord,
and all families shall worship before God.

People: **For dominion belongs to the Lord,
and God rules over all.**

Leader: Posterity will serve the Lord;
future generations will be told about God.

People: **We will proclaim God's love clearly, announcing
that it has been delivered even before we are aware.**

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.

Hymn 698 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* *(Worship and Rejoice)*

Vs 1 Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy; bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard. Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound! Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Vs 2 Christ is able to make us one, at the table he set the tone, teaching people to live and bless, love in word and in deed express. Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound! Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Vs 3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere! Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound! Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

All are welcome to partake. Grape juice, not wine, is served.

Invitation

Consecration and Service

Prayer of Gratitude (unison) – Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace. Amen

Scripture

Acts 6:1-15

~Heather Thomson

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law, for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Sermon

"Chosen to Serve"

Light of Service *Minister's Discretionary Fund*

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 *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life* - arr. H. Hopson

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 451 *Be Still, My Soul*

(Worship and Rejoice)

Vs 1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side! Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain; leave to your God to order and provide - in every change he faithful will remain. Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Vs 2 Be still, my soul: your God will undertake to guide the future as he has the past; your hope, your confidence let nothing shake - all now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Vs 3 Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on when we shall be forever with the Lord, when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

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 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* - arr. J. Carter

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

Andrew Anderson (Ruth Adotte)

Jay Atkinson

Andrea Blacklow (Kristin Mudge's friend)

Denis Combes (Jason Combes' father)

Nancy Foster (Olsen family friend)

John Funchion

Fran and Arnold Gellman (Tina Olsen)

Dennis Carr Hannifin (Sally Carr'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 Debby Prescott

Constance Rotondo

Dennis Watlington (Tim Hitchcock)

Judi Welch

Gretchen Wierdsma

**Ongoing concerns for our
relatives and friends:**

Annattie P., Eric, Jo, Kelly

Ryan Sterba

Rob Thew

Sue Ellen Thomas (Pastor Erick's sister)

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