

**OFFERING**

Joseph Tate, 8:45, insert

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

arr. Heather Sorenson

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

Rayne Chancel Choir, 11:00

*Eternal Grace*

Peter Aston

Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face.  
 Here faith would touch and handle things unseen;  
 Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,  
 And all my weariness upon thee lean.  
 Here would I feed upon the Bread of God;  
 Here drink with thee the royal wine of heav'n;  
 Here would I lay aside this earthly load;  
 Here taste a fresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.  
 I have no help than thine, nor do I need  
 Another arm save thing to lean upon:  
 It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed,  
 My strength is in thy might alone. Amen.

**†DOXOLOGY** *singing together*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
 Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise him  
 above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**†THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

insert

*If you would like to remain where you are  
 an usher will provide a communion packet for you at your pew.*

Gentle Praises Handbell Choir, 11:00  
 arr. Sandra Eithun

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* 400  
*Let Us Break Bread Together* 618

**†HYMN**

O Spirit of the Living God 539

**†BENEDICTION** *responsively*

Go now in peace.  
**Stand firm in your faith. Be strong. Be brave.  
 Let everything you do be done in love.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Little Prelude in C Major* J. S. Bach

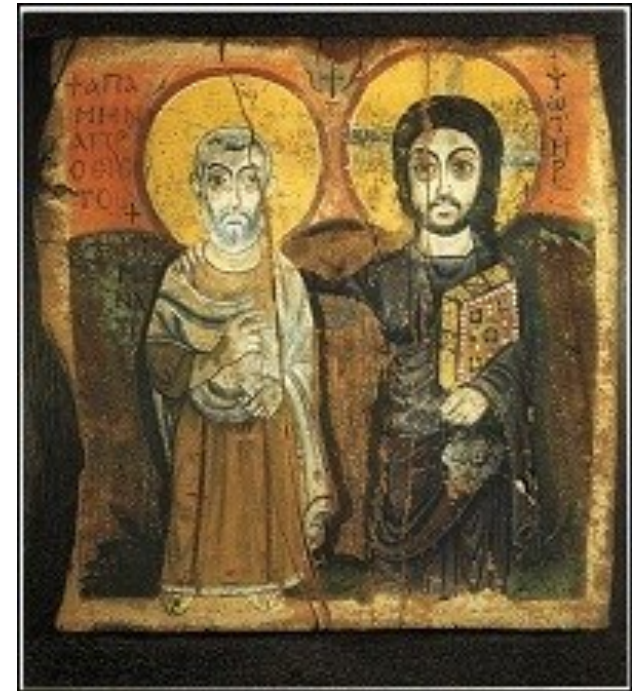
Permission to print / podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License# A-705234. All rights reserved.



MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
*for 149 years shining the light of God's love and grace*  
 3900 St. CHARLES AVENUE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70115  
 504-899-3431 WWW.RAYNENOLA.ORG

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024



The Icon of Friendship (8th C. Coptic Icon)

*Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors*

THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

*All are welcome!*

All are invited to participate in any of our activities, and to become a part of this community of faith and love.

---

## GATHERING

Rev. Jay Hogewood

Jesus, our faithful friend, we thank you for the precious gift of friendship. For the people who accept us as we are, who love us even in our least attractive moments, who help us laugh at ourselves and laugh at life; who encourage us, support us, believe in us, value us. Help us never to take friendship for granted but to tend it as a beautiful flower. ~ "The Pattern of Our Days," The Iona Community

## PRELUDE

Marcus St. Julien

Communion

Louis Vierne

## †CALL TO WORSHIP *responsively*

Rev. Mary Brown, 8:45

Rev. Zoë Garry, 11:00

Easter people, Jesus chose you and calls you friend!

**We abide in Christ because Christ abides in us.**

Jesus made a home among us to show us how to love.

**We abide in Love because Love abides in us.**

Jesus invites us in and beckons us to come to the Table to know the joy that comes when we love one another the way God loves us.

**We abide in Joy because Joy abides with us.**

Easter people, Jesus welcomes you home!

**We come to make our home with God and one another, bound together by Love and enlivened by Joy. Amen.\***

\*Created by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries

## †HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

384

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *responsively*

885

The love and joy of God - Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer - be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us affirm our faith and trust in the Holy Spirit's work among us.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare.

†The People Standing

We believe in God the Creator, infinite in wisdom, power and love, whose mercy is over all God's works,

and whose will is ever directed to her children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Child of God and Child of humanity, the gift of God's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should show up in the service of love, as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth.

Amen.

## RESPONSE *singing together*

God of Love and God of Power

578

verses 1 & 4

**God of love and God of power, grant us in this burning hour  
grace to ask these gifts of thee, daring hearts and spirits free.  
God of love and God of power, thou has called us for this hour.**

**God of love and God of power, make us worthy of this hour;  
offering lives if it's thy will, keep free our spirits still.  
God of love and God of power, thou has called us for this hour.**

## THE RED STEPS

A Special Time for Our Children

*At this time, children age 3 years old through 2nd grade may come forward to the front of the Sanctuary for a time of sharing, then attend children's church in the education building.*

## PRAYER

**O God, light the dark corners of our minds. Warm the cold places in our hearts. Fill the empty chambers of our spirits. Heal the brokenness of our lives. Amen.**

-Rev. John Winn

## SCRIPTURE

John 15:9-17

Eva Silvestre, 11:00

## HOMILY

Friendship ("What! You Too?")

## †HYMN

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

340

*Students (grades 3-5) may now exit the Sanctuary for a time of conversation in the Parlor.*

# THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*All are welcome at the table!*

## HYMN

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

384

1 Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!

Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.

Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.

Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## HYMN

*Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

340

1 Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.

**Refrain:** I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me with his arms;  
in the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

2 Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;

true belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh. **(Refrain)**

3 Come ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;

if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all. **(Refrain)**

4 Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;

all the fitness he requireth is to feel your need of him. **(Refrain)**

## HYMN

*O Spirit of the Living God*

539

1 O Spirit of the living God, thou light and fire divine,  
descend upon thy church once more, and make it truly thine.

Fill it with love and joy and power, with righteousness and peace;  
till Christ shall dwell in human hearts, and sin and sorrow cease.

2 Blow, wind of God! With wisdom blow until our minds are free  
from mists of error, clouds of doubt, which blind our eyes to thee.

Burn, winged fire! Inspire our lips with flaming love and zeal,  
to preach to all thy great good news, God's glorious commonweal.

3 Teach us to utter living words of truth which all may hear,  
the language all may understand when love speaks loud and clear;

till every age and race and clime shall blend their creeds in one,  
and earth shall form one family by whom thy will is done.

4 So shall we know the power of Christ who came this world to save;  
so shall we rise with him to life which soars beyond the grave;

and earth shall win true holiness, which makes thy children whole;  
till, perfected by thee, we reach creation's glorious goal!

## INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## CONFESSION

**Gracious God, have mercy on us. In your compassion, forgive us our sins - known and unknown, those things done and left undone. Inspire us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life to the honor and glory of your holy name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray.**

## SILENT CONFESSION PARDON

Hear again the good news of Jesus, our Prince of Peace: God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn: *singing together:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!**

And so in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith: *singing together: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.*

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ redeemed by his blood. By your spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

**Through your Son Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God.**

*singing together: Amen, amen, amen!*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** *together*