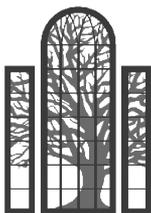


5th Sunday in Easter  
May 2, 2021



**University Presbyterian Church**

3240 Dalrymple Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
(225)383-0345 • [www.upcbr.org](http://www.upcbr.org)

Co-Pastors: Mamie Broadhurst and Patti Snyder

Choir Director: David Walters

Organist: Anne Maverick

Ministers: The people of this church

# 5th Sunday in Easter

## May 2, 2021

### WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

*We worship today gathered in Spirit if not in body, realizing perhaps more than ever the nature of the body of Christ. We gather as a resurrection people even in our time of loss and uncertainty. As we gather may we be strengthened by the Spirit who knows no boundaries.*

*As you prepare for worship together you may wish to light a candle representing the presence of God with you and concerns, laments, desires for healing, confessions or prayers of thanksgiving that you are particularly holding in the light of Christ today.*

#### OPENING MUSIC

*Cornet Voluntary*  
*Berg*

*Three English Voluntaries for Oboe and Organ*  
*Edited and arranged by Susan Marchant*  
*St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1982*

#### WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, AND CONCERNS

Patti Snyder

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Bailey Stoker

Love itself, spreading the feast of life before the world and gathering  
all people together:

**you are the Christ, the Spirit, ever on the journey with us.**

Wonder of grace, spreading across the earth, holding close the lonely,  
the frantic, the fearful and telling the stories of wisdom:

**you are the Christ, the Spirit, ever on the journey with us.**

**We lift our hearts, our minds, our spirits to you in worship!**

#### HYMN No. 285

*Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**Source of all good, it is easy to say that since you love us, we also ought to love one another, but we confess that it is not always so easy to do. We know in our hearts that the love we share could make your love visible to the world, but we confess that our words and actions are not always grounded in love. Forgive us, we pray. Walk this road with us. Bridge the gaps between the grace we receive and the grace we offer. Fill our hearts anew with your love. May Jesus' way in the world become the chief desire of our hearts, the source of all our thoughts, and the inspiration of our lives. Amen.**

#### SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (*responsive*)

God's love is alive, beating, breathing – in you, in me, in all of us together.

**Because God abides in us, we can live for others, making space for God's love to bear fruit in us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

No. 59 (*refrain only*)

***The Steadfast Love of the Lord***

WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

**We come to your Word to brush against the mystery once again that we might share wisdom, and faith might be renewed. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

John 15:1-8

Acts 8:26-40

Bailey Stoker

Patti Snyder

SERMON

Patti Snyder

WE RESPOND WITH DEDICATION

HYMN No. 515

***I Come with Joy***

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Offering the sustenance to strengthen and guide us no matter where our journeys take us, Christ has prepared a space for us each, for us all, at his table.

**Let us keep the feast.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the God of the way be with you.

**And also with you.**

Bring your hearts to the One who loves you.

**We offer them so that we might grow in grace and love.**

Lift songs of praise to our God.

**We will join our hearts and voices in proclaiming the good news!**

“Get up,” you cried to your Word and Spirit...

...with those who seem to intuit your hearts, with those seeking to understand your hopes, we lift our songs of thanksgiving to you.

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of eunuchs and evangelists.**

**All creation bears fruit in glorifying you.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Love is your language of holiness, and Jesus Christ, our Savior is the true Vine of your heart...

...As we seek to abide in Jesus, as we long to bear fruit in the kingdom, we speak of the mystery known as faith:

**Christ died, that we might live through him;**

**Christ was raised, that he might live through you;**

**Christ will come, that all might live through eternity with you.**

Abide in us at this Table, as you pour out your Spirit on the gifts of the bread and cup...

...Then, when we no longer sleep in death, but are gathered around your Table with our sisters and brothers of all time and places, we will join in singing the wisdom with one voice and heart,

**You were, and are, and ever will be on the journey with us!**

**Amen and Amen!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

*As the elements are shared and received the congregation is invited to join in singing No 205 **Live in Charity** (sung through three times)*

COMMUNION PRAYER

#### OFFERING OF GIFTS

*During this time you are encouraged to consider your response to the work of Christ in the world today, making a commitment of time, talents, and resources. Please remember your family, neighbors, the wider community, and the church in your offering. Although many things are shifting, please continue to honor previous commitments to the best of your ability.*

*If you choose to contribute to the work of Christ through UPC at this time, on-line giving is available via the GIVE tab on our website ([www.upcbr.org](http://www.upcbr.org)) or by texting “upcbr (space) and then the number of dollars” to 73256.*

#### INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

**From you comes every gift we need and every blessing we have. May we not hoard them for ourselves but offer them back, showing up that the poor might be fed, the lonely befriended, and the despairing filled with hope. This we pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.**

HYMN No. 240 (*refrain*)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Give praise to God’s name.**

#### WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

#### CHARGE and BENEDECTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Again and again we proclaim!

**Christ is risen, Christ is risen indeed.**

CLOSING MUSIC

*Let Us Love One Another*

*Lois Kuyper-Rushing, oboe; Edward Peterson, guitar.*

*Arnold B. Sherman*

*Dayton: The Sacred Music Press, 1981*

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love comes from God,  
and all who know and call upon God's name are children of our Lord.*

*Beloved, this is what love is; not that we love God,  
but that God loves us and sent the only Son to free us from our sin.*

*How can we not know our God?*

*How can we not love our God?*

*God sent the only Son to die for all our sins.*

*Is there greater love than this?*

*Beloved, if this is how God loves, then we should love all,  
and live in perfect harmony with all,  
And God will live in us.*

*Let us love one another.*

*The first commissioned music from our  
composer-in-residence, Matthew Bardin, will be  
premiered during next Sunday's service, May 9.  
You'll want to slow down, stop, and listen to this  
piece for solo organ!*

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