



*A Service for the Worship of God*  
*Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
May 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

**PREPARATION**

- *Please set out a candle that you can light as we light the Christ Candle during worship.*
- *If possible, find a rock (any size or shape) and put it beside your candle.*

**Gathering Around God's Word**

**Prelude**

*Jim Pera*

**Welcome and Announcements**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

*Rev. Laura Nile*

**Call to Worship**

*Ruth Whatley*

*Leader: We do not live by our own strength alone, but draw life from God.*

**People: God is our root, deeply planted and firmly established.**

*Leader: God anchors all of life,*

**People: and without God, there is no life.**

*Leader: Let us join in worship, listening for guidance*

*and trusting in a divine love that holds us close to our Creator's heart.*

**Unison: Praise the Lord!**

1 Come, wor - ship God, who is wor - thy of hon - or;  
 2 Ruled by your might are the heights of the moun - tains;  
 3 We are your peo - ple, the sheep of your pas - ture;  
 4 Now let us lis - ten, for you speak a - mong us;

en - ter God's pres - ence with thanks and a song!  
 held in your hands are the depths of the earth.  
 you are our Mak - er, and to you we pray.  
 o - pen our hearts to re - ceive what you say.

You are the rock of your peo - ple's sal - va - tion  
 Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them,  
 Glad - ly we kneel in o - be - dience be - fore you;  
 Peace be to all who re - mem - ber your good - ness,

to whom our ju - bi - lant prais - es be - long.  
 God a - bove all gods, who gave us our birth.  
 great is the one whom we wor - ship this day!  
 trust in your word, and re - joice in your way!

**Prayer of Adoration and Praise** (*In Unison*)*Ruth Whatley*

God of tender mercy, in your Spirit, all the earth's children find welcome, shelter and peace. Knowing that we are held close to your heart, we may sometimes still be distressed or anxious, but we know that we need not despair. Through the healing and liberating love of Jesus Christ, thank you for showing us who you are and who we can be. As we see you in Jesus, may we live in such a way that others see Christ through us. Amen.

## Celtic Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.  
Je - sus we praise you as Lord; All of the earth gives you  
glo - ry for your ma - jes - ty — fills the hea - ven, fills the earth.

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## Passing of the Peace

*Rev. Laura Nile*

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

## Hearing God's Word

### Anthem

"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"  
*Ruth Whatley, soloist*

Civilla Durfee Martin

### Children's Time

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

### Scripture Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

*Rev. Laura Nile*

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Je - sus, thy bound - less love to me no thought can  
 2 O grant that noth - ing in my soul may dwell, but  
 3 O Love, how gra - cious is thy way! All fear be -

reach, no tongue de - clare; O knit my thank - ful heart to  
 thy pure love a - lone; O may thy love pos - sess me  
 fore thy pres - ence flies; care, an - guish, sor - row melt a -

thee, and reign with - out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly,  
 whole, my joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness  
 way wher - e'er thy heal - ing beams a - rise. O Je - sus,

thine a - lone, I'd live; my - self to thee en - tire - ly give.  
 from my heart re - move; may ev - ery act, word, thought be love.  
 noth - ing may I see, noth - ing de - sire, or seek, but thee.

Sermon

"Living Stones"

Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong

*At the end of the sermon,  
 Ruth Whatley will sing Hymn # 701, "Lord, Prepare Me."*

*The congregation will then sing it with her twice.  
 (SEE NEXT PAGE.)*

# Lord, Prepare Me

701

Sanctuary

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and  
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing,  
I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

## Responding to God's Word

### \*Affirmation of Faith

*(Adapted from A Brief Confession of Faith)*

**In life and death, we belong to God. We trust in one God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ. Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain, and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the powers of sin and evil, delivering us from death to eternal life.**

**We trust in the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, and sets us free to accept ourselves, and to love God and neighbor. In gratitude to God we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks, and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come Lord Jesus!**

### Presentation of Offerings

*If you would like to give online, please go to [www.sminster.com/give](http://www.sminster.com/give) where you can give once or set-up a reoccurring monthly offering to the church.*

### Presentation Hymn # 246

"Christ is Alive!"

verse 5

*Organist will play it once. Then, we all will sing it.*

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love and praise.**

### Sharing of Joys and Concerns

*Rev. Laura Nile*

### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive 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.

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's  
 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us, from our strug - gling

joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,  
 joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion  
 pil - grim way, let no fear of death ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,  
 in our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,  
 glad your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.  
 ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.  
 may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

**Benediction**

**Response to Benediction** “God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

Hymn 541, verse 4

*Ruth Whatley, soloist*

**Postlude**