

**St. John United Church of Christ**  
**“In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve”**

May 3, 2026

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (A)

Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor

David R. Ekstrand, Dir. of Music

9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship

9:30 Sunday School for Children

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Large print bulletins are available from the Ushers.

***Bold italic denotes congregation reads or sings.***

\*Denotes all who are able, please stand.

**WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH A SMILE AND WAVE

\*RESPONSE ***“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*** Vs. 1 #71

***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!***

***O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!***

***Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near,***

***join me in glad adoration!***

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Acts 7:55-60

“Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” (Vs. 60)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Magnify the Lord*

Chancel Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER<sup>1</sup>

We come asking God to be our refuge and strength,

***To be our ever-faithful rock in the shifting sands of life.***

We come asking Christ to be our firm foundation,

***To nourish us to grow more and more like him.***

We come asking the Holy Spirit to be our wisdom and guide,

***To empower us to be God’s people in the world.***

Let us pray together:

***Faithful God, you are our refuge and our strength, a mighty fortress in a world of chaos and turmoil. Protect us, but also encourage us to be brave. Strengthen us to face this world***

**and to make it a better place. Inspire our worship, that in this time we may deepen our faith and place our trust in you. Amen.**

\*HYMN

**“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”**

#507

\*RESPONSIVE HISTORIC CREED<sup>2</sup>      The Nicene Creed of 325 & 381 CE

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.***

Through him all things were made.

***For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.***

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

***On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.***

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

***We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.***

He has spoken through the prophets.

***We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON      Acts 7:55-60      pg. 118

ANTHEM      *Here I Am, Lord*      Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON      John 14:1-14      pg. 102

MEDITATION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN                                    **“As We Gather at Your Table”**                                    #695

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE                                    **“The Lord’s Prayer”** (One Amen)                                    #740

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY                                    *Let Us Break Bread Together*

\*RESPONSE                                    **“Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult”**                                    Vs. 4 #345

**Jesus calls us—**

***by thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thine obedience,  
serve and love thee best of all.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION<sup>2</sup>

***Bless these tithes and offerings, O God, returned to you.  
Multiply and use them to bring the word and the comforting  
touch of Jesus to this place and throughout the world, in the  
name of our risen Savior, Jesus. Amen.***

INVITATION<sup>2</sup>

Luke, the evangelist, wrote of our risen Savior, who at the table with two of the disciples took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

***In company with all believers in every time and beyond time,  
we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking  
of the bread.***

COMMUNION PRAYER WITH SILENT CONFESSION AND  
ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PREPARING AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

All are invited to the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The inner circle of cups contain white grape juice. The outer circles contain wine. Please hold each element when served in the pews so all may partake together, remembering that in the upper room last supper Jesus said, “take this and divide it among yourselves.” (Luke 22:17b)

\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at  
your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.***

***Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
Amen.***

\*HYMN      ***“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”***      #698

\*POSTLUDE      *Lift Up Your Heads, Oh Mighty Gates*

<sup>1</sup>Adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026*. Copyright © 2025 by Abingdon Press.

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We thank Carol Relleke for serving as liturgist, and Betty Meszaros for serving as greeter.