



April 28, 2024 | FIRST TRADITION 11:00 AM | Fifth Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

PRELUDE

James Stanley

Aria in F | Wayne L. Wold

CALL TO WORSHIP †

Rev. David C. Freeman

As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep,
so God seeks and saves the lost.

Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found,
so God rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness.

As a father receives a returning wayward son,
so God welcomes us, and lets the past be the past.

Therefore let us praise God in thanksgiving that we are received.
Let us receive and welcome and rejoice over one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

Enter his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him, bless his name!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 108, verses 1-2 †

God Hath Spoken by the Prophets | United Methodist Hymnal

PASSING OF THE PEACE †

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 108, verse 3 †

God Hath Spoken by the Prophets | United Methodist Hymnal

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Rev. Haley Jones Wells

O God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives, bringing new life out of destruction, hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty. We thank you that you do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole. Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives, and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit, that we may know the joy you give your people. Amen

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG

Jesus loves me, this I know for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me— the Bible tells me so.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Brittany Richardson Watson

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

Praise His Holy Name | Keith Hampton

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Elizabeth Small

Acts 8: 26-40 | Pew Bible, New Testament Page 120

The word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A Compelling Story

Rev. David C. Freeman

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

Tim Bartlett

Our Father | Craig Courtney

DOXOLOGY 94 †

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow | United Methodist Hymnal

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING †

SENDING FORTH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP †

As a community and individuals, responding to God's grace, we seek to be good neighbors to make Little Rock a place where all God's children THRIVE. Through our spiritual journey and life in the community, we will work for the core values we believe all children of God need: Trust, Health, Relationships, Imagination, Value, and Education.

CLOSING HYMN 577 †

God of Grace and God of Glory | United Methodist Hymnal

During the singing of the hymn, individuals desiring to join the church are asked to come to the chancel so the pastors may offer membership vows and welcome you to the congregation.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS †

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

BENEDICTION †

CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION †

The Lord Bless You and Keep You | Peter Lutkin

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in F | Wayne L. Wold

ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE

Clergy: Rev. David, C. Freeman, Rev. Haley Jones Wells, Rev. Brittany Richardson Watson

Music & Worship Arts: James Stanley, Shannon Webb, Chancel Choir, Tim Bartlett

Liturgist: Elizabeth Small

Audio/Visual: Christopher Cone, Lesley Andrews

Acolytes: William Block and Joe Watson

Altar Guild: Juanita Woodard & Susan Weir

Altar Flowers: To the glory of God and in memory of Phil's parents on their anniversary, given by Bridget and Phil Reemes.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Requesting Prayer:

Don Williams, Tommy Deaton, Anna Grace Clark Watt, Nancy Foster, Gay Lee, Mary Davis, Sharon Ursery, Linda Baker, Sidney Beal, Paul Floyd, Melba Yancy, Chad Wycoff, Linda Deloney, Hatley Rodgers, Savannah Smith, Coralie Hawkins, Les Haynie, Steve Cross, Bob Nelson, Heather Rose, Heather Hill, Bill Lewis, Ann Marie Trammell, Rosie Howard, Jeff Crowe, Emily Taylor, Mike Pack, Tracy Tomlinson, Gayle Bogy

Prayers for UMC General Conference 2024

The United Methodist General Conference is underway and will continue through May 3. General Conference is the governing body of the global denomination that typically meets every 4 years. However, the 2020 meeting was postponed and eventually canceled. Therefore, this is the first meeting since 2016. Since it met last, our denomination has been through great change and transformation. Many churches have disaffiliated, which has significantly changed the landscape of Methodism. These changes bring challenges as we try to discern our structure, policies, and focus. But this gathering will also help the general church better understand who we are and what God is calling us to be going forward. This transformation affords great possibilities and opportunities. Please be in prayer for this gathering, the Arkansas delegation, and specifically, our own Rev. Natasha Murray and Amy Forbus, who are members of the delegation. May God's Spirit move, challenge, and usher in a beautiful future for the people of the United Methodist Church.

