

Sunday, May 4, 2025,
We Gather to Celebrate God's Presence

Welcome
Family Life and Work
Family Celebrations
Lighting of the Christ Candle:
Acknowledgment of the Land:

Introit: Welcome, Happy Morning

VU 161 vs 1

**1 Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say;
 hell, today is vanquished, heaven is won today:
 come then, True and Faithful, now fulfil your word;
 this is your third morning: rise, O buried Lord!**

**Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say;
hell, today is vanquished, heaven is won today!**

Call to Worship:

L: We arrange our lives as best we can to keep your holiness at bay
 with our pieties, doctrines, liturgies, moralities and secret ideologies

P: Safe. Virtuous. Settled.

L: And then **You**...with **Your** dreams & visions, purposes and commands,
 probing pervading insisting, demanding.

**P: And we yield, sometimes gladly, sometimes resentfully, sometimes
late...or soon.**

L: We are Your creatures met by Your holiness

P: By Your holiness made our true selves. And we yield.

Opening Hymn: It Only Takes a Spark

VU 289

**It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:
 that's how it is with God's love,
 once you've experienced it:
 you spread God's love to everyone,
 you want to pass it on.**

**2 What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees
 are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
 that's how it is with God's love,
 once you've experienced it:**

**you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.**

**3 I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found -
on God you can depend, it matters not where
you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.**

Prayer of Approach

You are God who wills, who summons, who has concrete intentions for your creation and who calls us to do Your will. We imagine ourselves called by You. Called , but cowardly. Obedient, but self-indulgent, devoted, but preoccupied. In our strange mix of answering and refusing, we give thanks for Your call. We seek to answer Your call, haunted by its large purposes. Lead us with fresh vision, great courage and sustaining love. AMEN

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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 trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

First Reading: **Acts 9: 1-6**

Children's Time:

Gradual Hymn: My Song Is Love Unknown

VU 143

**1 My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.**

**O who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?**

**2 He came from his blest throne
 salvation to bestow,
but people scorned, and none the longed-for Christ
 would know.
But O my Friend, my Friend indeed,
 who at my need his life did spend!**

**3 Sometimes they strew his way,
 and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day hosannas to their King.
 Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,
 and for his death they thirst and cry.**

**4 Here might I stay and sing,
 no story so divine;
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine!
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.**

Gospel Reading: **John 21: 1-9**

We Listen

Meditation: **Knocked off your high horse**

Musical Offering: God is So Good

We Respond

Offertory: **O Give Thanks**

**O give thanks, O give thanks,
O give thanks unto the Lord
 for he is gracious
 and his mercy endureth,
 endureth forever more**

Offertory/Prayer of Dedication:

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

L: Your holiness exposes our uncleanness
Your fierceness towels of our apathy.
Your peace ableness notices our pugnacity.
Your generosity bespeaks our stinginess.

P: **So unlike You,
Yet called by You
Sent by You,
Authorized by You.**

L: To hard places - called.
To tough times - called.
To resistant circumstances - called.

P: **Called to match Your holy purposes.
We move forward in Your name.**

Closing Hymn: She Comes Sailing on the Wind

VU 380

**She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.**

**1 Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,
 like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved upon the earth,
 like a mother breathing life into her child. (to Verse 2)**

**2 Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight
 when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.
 Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts
 found new delight,
 and then down the ages still she flew on. R**

**3 To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze she came,
 a whisper softly calling in the dark,
 the promise of a child of peace whose reign would
 never end,
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart. (to Verse 4)**

**4 Flying to the river, she waited circling high
 above the child now grown so full of grace.
As he rose up from the water, she swept down from the sky,**

and she carried him away in her embrace. R

**5 Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,
after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,
the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled,
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on. R**

Benedictions and Commissioning

Choral Benediction: An Easter Benediction

**Hosanna in the highest
strains the church on earth can raise
The highest heav'ns in which he reigns
shall give him nobler praise
Amen**