

# The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

Fifth Sunday of Eastertide  
Festival of the Christian Home

May 10, 2020

Welcome to All

Thank you for joining us! Please register your attendance at:

<https://www.stjohnsbr.org/attendance>



ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*

*We are a Christian community called to share our gifts through worship, witness and service so that others will know God and become disciples of Jesus Christ.*

## Spending Time Together

Prelude Terry Byars

Words of Grace and Welcome Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

In the Bible, the early church was described in this way:

*"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people."*

*(Acts 2: 46-47a)*

Centering Our Hearts as One

*We invite you to place your hand on your heart.  
Feel your breath and the beat of your heart as we pray.*

Hear this assurance from God:

*(sung to the tune of Amazing Grace)*

**Be still, O heart, you're not alone,  
your beat is shared with me.**

**Come now, and calm, and center here,  
you're mine, secure and free.**

*Let us pick up our heart stone, sometimes called a "worry stone," and let our touch on its surface remind us that God's touch is within us, between us, and around us.*

We offer a prayer song of letting go.

Sing along, if you're comfortable:

*(sung to the tune of Amazing Grace)*

**Into your care, we offer now,  
our worries, fears and strife.**

**We turn to you and know you're near-  
Your light, our love and life.**

*Let's light our candles now  
and set our heart worry stones next to it.*

Call to Worship

We know Jesus is present among us... [repeat]  
even in this very home... [repeat]

We will not let fear be louder than love... [repeat]  
but with glad hearts and rejoicing souls... [repeat]

we will sing God's praise... [repeat]  
for we are Easter People...! [repeat]  
Alleluia! Amen. [repeat]

Hymn of Praise

*In Fear the World is Weeping*

*The hymn writer Ruth Duck has written this beautiful hymn  
for this fragile moment. We will sing it to the tune of  
"Go Make of All Disciples."*

**In fear the world is weeping,  
and longs with every breath,  
for life and hope and seeking  
new paths beyond this death.  
And loving hearts are risking  
their lives that we may thrive.**

Praise God for those who labor,  
O may they stay alive.

**Our lives are bound together  
in sorrow and in prayer.**

**In life and death and nature  
the Holy One gives air.**

**Around the world show wisdom,  
with open hearts give care,  
a new world calls us onward,  
sing hope now everywhere.**

## Breaking Open the Word

A Reading from the Psalms Children of St. John's  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Song of Response

Cares Chorus

A Reading from the Gospels Natalie Cooper and  
Rev. Deirdre Halliburton

John 14:1-14

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

Song of Response

You Are Mine

Prayer for Illumination based on Psalm 19:14

**May the words of our mouths and the meditations  
of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, thou who art  
our strength and our redeemer. Amen.**

The Message Pastor Lane

"The Heart of God"

## Breaking Open our Hearts and Lives

Festival of the Christian Home:  
A Blessing

A Blessing of our Individual Creation

**Loving God, in your wisdom you have created us  
and given us many gifts. Today, we thank you for all  
that we mean to each other and to our friends and  
families. We thank you for the love that has brought  
us to this time and place, and for your love which  
abides to tie us all together. Where you are, O God,  
there is love. Amen.**

Blessing of our Relationships

**God, your strength is sufficient for us all. We have  
committed ourselves one to the other in your  
presence, so we pray that you will continue to be  
with us in the unfolding of our future.**

Give us strength and courage in times of difficulty, wisdom and love in times of opportunity and challenge, and the sharing of joy in times of happiness and success. May we continue to grow in your love; through the power of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### Blessing of our Friendships and Families of Choice

God of friends and families, we are linked together in a community of friendship and support. We pray for one another. We remember those who are not physically present with us today. May we all continue to share in your gifts of love, strength, courage and wisdom, and to know your joy. Give us growing understanding, sympathy with each other's difficulties, patience with each other's faults, and grace to walk in your ways. Amen.

#### Blessing for Families with Children

Loving God, We come today carrying children and youth in our hearts – the children we brought into this world, the children we parent, our grandchildren, nieces, nephews, Godchildren, mentees, the children we care for in our work, and the children we advocate for in our witness.

Lord, help us not to be so preoccupied with our purposes that we fail to hear their voices or see their special vision of truth. Keep us, ready to listen and to love even as you have loved us, your grown-up and sometimes wayward children. Amen.

#### Blessing of our Homes

Loving Abba God,  
We praise You for this fresh revelation today concerning our homes and our lives. You are faithful to reveal so much more than we ever knew we needed to pray for!

We praise You for providing our dwelling places: a house, rented or owned, an apartment, condo, shelter, dorm room, bench, or even the cover under a bridge. Wherever we lie to rest our heads, we thank You. Forgive us for those times when we complain about our life circumstances, whether it be about our home or our situation.

Bless this home with your joy and peace. We pray for a hedge of protection to surround us, that all who dwell here may find safety and comfort. Let your love rest here and our home be a welcome sanctuary for those who need love and care. Amen.

#### The Lord's Prayer

#### Blessing Song

*Lord, Be Glorified*

**In our homes, Lord,  
be glorified, be glorified.  
In our homes, Lord,  
be glorified today.**

### *Praising God!*

#### Prayer of Dedication

#### Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

*I've Got Peace Like A River*

*We appreciate your generosity.*

*Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.*

*You may give online and register your attendance here:*

<https://www.stjohnsbr.org/attendance>

#### Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**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!**

### *Practicing Goodwill*

#### Faith in Action

*From children to octogenarians this is a time for everyone to put their faith into action.*

#### Invitation to Christian Discipleship

#### Hymn of Discipleship

*'Tis So Sweet to Trust In Jesus*

**'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
and to take him at his word;**

**just to rest upon his promise,  
and to know, "Thus saith the Lord."**

REFRAIN:

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!  
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!**

**Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O for grace to trust him more!**

**Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,  
just from sin and self to cease;  
just from Jesus simply taking  
life and rest, and joy and peace.**

REFRAIN

**I'm so glad I learned to trust thee,  
precious Jesus, Savior, friend;  
and I know that thou art with me,  
wilt be with me to the end.**

REFRAIN

#### Benediction

*based on Psalm 16*

#### Postlude

*On Eagles Wings*

*Thank you for worshipping with us!*

*Today's worship stewards are:*

*Carrie Poynot, Terry Byars,  
Betsy Adams, Natalie Cooper, Ana de la Fuente,  
Evie Durham, Mimi Durham, Teegie Hamilton,  
Bishop Idikwu, Deidra, Larry, Haylee, Hayden, and Tia  
Matthews, Tommie Reinhardt, Seth Robertson,  
Chris and Darren Stubbs, Jane Walker,  
Mari Walker, Peg and Saroj Welch,  
and our pastors.*

*Portions of today's liturgy are adapted from  
www.worshipdesignstudio.com/series by Dr. Marcia McFee.*

*The Festival of the Christian Home blessings are adapted from  
"A Blessing for All People and All Families,"  
by Rev. Mandy Sloan McDow*

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