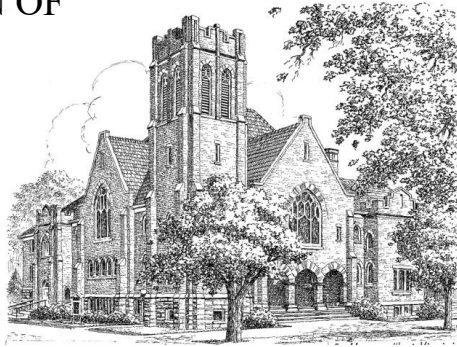


CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

TO SHINE WITH
THE LIGHT
OF JESUS CHRIST
SO THAT
OTHERS WILL
KNOW AND
LOVE HIM



+ Those who are able are invited to stand.

You are invited to respond with the **Bold** responses.

MOMENTS OF CENTERING

The disciples meet at night, in secret, behind locked doors, afraid. They've seen what happened, and none of them want to be crucified. Then, Jesus stands among them, wounded hands and side. Joy! The Lord is Alive! Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit upon them and then disappears. They have seen him, and the Spirit rests upon them, and we expect them to have faith and courage, but a week later, they hide behind locked doors again. ...How many of us claim to be believers in a risen Lord, and yet live our lives in fear? We lock the doors of our hearts to anything that might threaten us, and we put our trust in safety and precautions, not in the God who raised Jesus from the dead. God delivered Jesus from death. Can God not deliver us from our fears? God can and God does. We dare not live like these fearful disciples. We believe in Jesus' resurrection. He lives for us. We live now and we will live again through him.

Christ is Risen! Welcome to Worship!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Renee Warner

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY

PRELUDE

Dan Martin

SERVICE OF LIGHT

The Acolytes

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world."

+CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

UMH 177

He Is Lord

He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord! Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Responsively

Easter people, in this season of Eastertide, we remember the blessings God gives us—the blessings of Resurrection, salvation, and new life in Christ. **We come to praise God for the blessings of Easter! We come to bless God with our praise as God continues to bless us with all that we need to live as God's Resurrection people. Thanks be to God!**

+INVOCATION

Responsively

We hear your call, Lord; how can we keep from singing? How can we keep our lips from proclaiming the good news, that Jesus Christ is risen, bringing healing and forgiveness to all?

From the life in his blood he has freed us, saves us, and makes us children of the Living God. Whether we have seen or believe without seeing, we have found life in his name. In Christ's name, we give thanks and praise. Amen!

+HYMN OF PRAISE

UMH 154

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

THE CHURCH SHARES IN CONFESSION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Daniel 7:9-14

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Responsively

Must we see you in order to believe you, Lord? Is seeing truly believing? Are we to be prisoners of our

senses, distrusting and rejecting whatever we cannot see, touch, or hear? Yet you are faithful—you give sight to the blind, you carry us when we are weary, you call us to your side. The locked room of our hearts opens at the turn of your key.

Speak your words of life to us again:

"Do not doubt, only believe."

Speak your words of life, that we might live.

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader

The peace of God be with you. Receive God's forgiveness and the promise of the Spirit, for Jesus is risen from the dead. Seen or unseen, he is present in our midst, and we see the presence of Christ reflected in each other's faces. Happy are those who have not seen yet have come to believe.

Amen.

RESPONSE

Renee Warner

THE CHURCH SHARES

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We all come to worship with different needs and leave with different answers. Spending this time as community, sharing sacred story, singing holy song, and translating worship into our lives are core spiritual practices for many of us. Sharing financial gifts is also a spiritual practice. You are invited to support the work of this church family, Mission and Service, and beyond by giving freely what you can.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Unison

God, as we offer our gifts, please use them along with those already given through PAR and online to create a space where we feel your presence. Please help us to be your people, to be a blessing to others, and to lead others to you. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Dan Martin

+DOXOLOGY

UMH 94

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 up-lifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Children are invited to Wiggletime!

THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD

WIGGLETIME ...*Ready, Set, Go to Children's Church*

CALL TO PRAYER

UMH 286

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded, v. 3

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend, for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end? O make me thine forever; and should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never out-live my love to thee.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Responsively

Living God, hear our prayer:

Make of this world your new creation!

Before we call, you answer, O Lord.

Before we speak, you know our words.

Let there be joy in Jerusalem,
and peace among all nations.

Let sounds of weeping and cries of distress
Turn to shouts of joy and laughter.

Let infants grow and thrive;
Let the old dance like children.

Let every person find a home
and enjoy the fruit of their labor.

Let the wolf and the lamb live in peace;
Let no one hurt or destroy another.

Show us, O God, the holy mountain you have prepared, the new heaven and new earth you have promised, so that we may be glad and rejoice in your presence forever; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, and in whose name we pray...

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, forever. Amen.

THE WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC

*Chancel Choir
Eva Atha: Director*

SERMON

Rev. M. Steven Meadows

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO SHARE GOOD NEWS

+HYMN OF DEDICATION

UMH 140

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

+COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Responsively

Those who came to mourn found an empty tomb.
Those who came weeping left dancing for joy.
Go in peace for you have found life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alleluia!

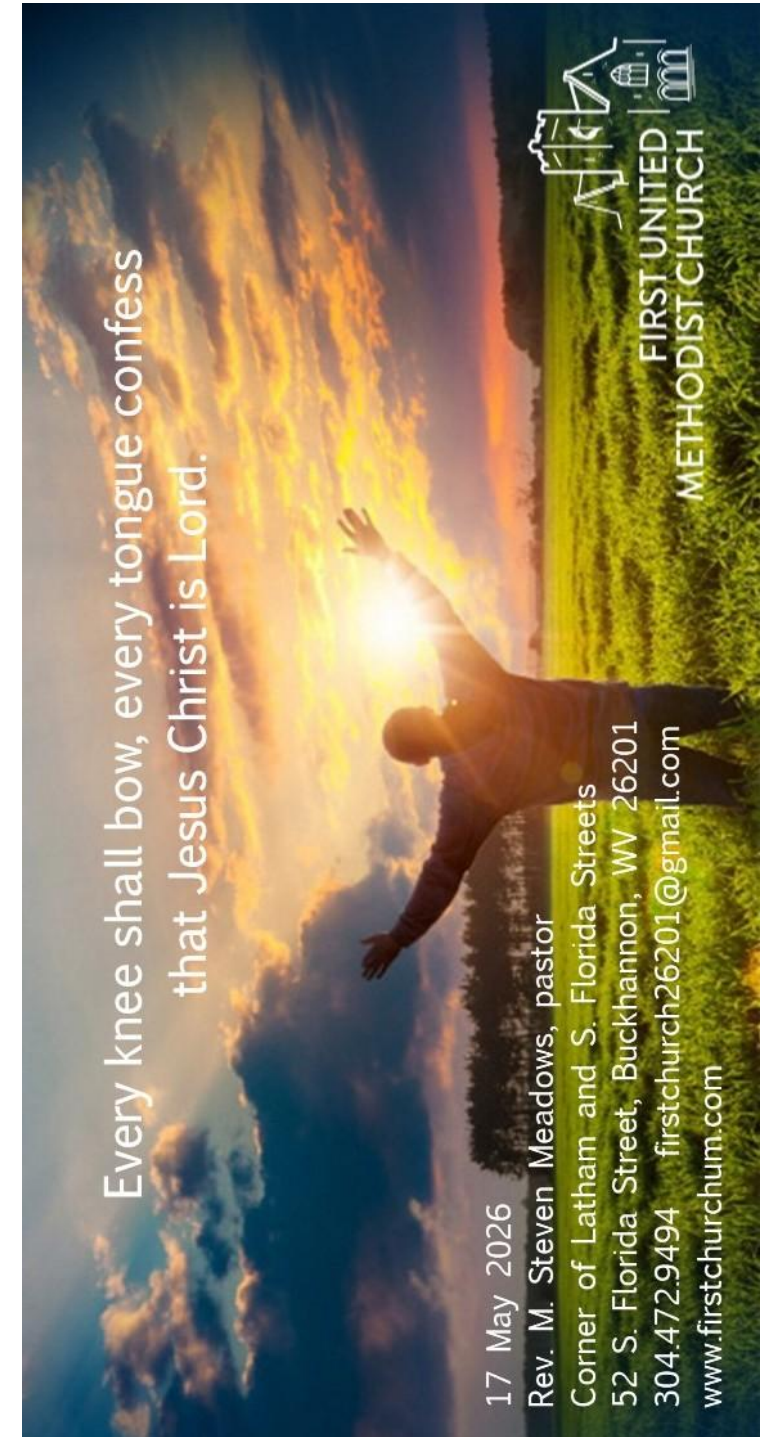
Glory be to God the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit!

"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia! Amen.

+POSTLUDE

Dan Martin

...and the worship continues.



Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

17 May 2026

Rev. M. Steven Meadows, pastor

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FIRST UNITED
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