



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

WELCOMING ALL; SHARING CHRIST; SERVING OTHERS

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In preparing our hearts for worship, we will be dimming the lights in the narthex, indicating a time to prepare ourselves for worship. Please enter the sanctuary quietly and in time to hear the welcome and announcements.

May 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday in Easter



Prayer of Preparation

Dear God, silence all voices within our minds but your own. Help us to seek and be able to follow your will. May our prayers be joined with those of our sisters and brothers in the faith, that together we may glorify your name and enjoy your fellowship forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

Lord I Lift Your Name On High
FPC Bell Choir

arr Peggy Bettcher

Welcome / Greetings

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

*Call to Worship based on from Psalm 118

Liturgist

Let us join our voices to praise the spotless Lamb, Jesus Christ, who has redeemed us from sin and death.

We, whom he has redeemed, will sing praises and shout for joy this hour;

Because in Christ the Lamb we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins in accordance with the riches of his grace.

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.

Let us praise him by saying:

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise! To God who sits on the throne and to the risen Christ we give worship this hour and forever and ever. Let us worship the Lamb. Amen.

*Opening Hymn #17

Sing Praise To God You Heavens!

- 1. Sing praise to God, you heavens! Sing praise, each shining light!
Sing, planets in your orbits; sing, stars all burning bright!
Sing praise, you winds and tempests, you driving rain and snow!
Sing, clouds that race and billow and shadow earth below!**
- 2. Sing praise, O Earth, sing praises! Sing praises, hill and plain,
You mountains thrusting skyward, you valleys ripe with grain!
Sing praise, each fragrant flower, your fairest hues display.
Sing praise, you trees of autumn in glowing, glad array!**
- 3. Sing praises, all you creatures in whom God takes delight:
You whales that roam the oceans, you eagles in your flight!
Sing praise, you sheep on hillsides, you cattle in the stall!
Through wordless sing your praises to God who made you all!**
- 4. Sing praises now, God's people; your gift of speech employ
To praise the Lord, your Maker, with thankfulness and joy!
Sing with the whole creation, a cosmic chorus raise:
"To God alone be glory and everlasting praise!"**

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us change what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance – John 3

"For, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

It is the Lamb—who was slaughtered and now raised to eternal life—who forgives us and washes us clean. Thanks be to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Amen.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism

We Hear God's Word

Reading

Psalm 148; Acts 11.1-18

Liturgist

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded, and they were created. He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

Acts 11.1-18

Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So, when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance, I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely, I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and

your entire household will be saved.’ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

Anthem

Great Is The Lord
FPC Bell Choir

arr. Peggy Bettcher

Sermon

“Knocking Down Walls”



Offertory & Collection of Prayer Cards

*Doxology #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here and below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

We Respond to God's Word

Prayer of the People, Thanksgiving, & The Lord's Prayer

Liturgist

We praise you, God our creator, for your handiwork in shaping and sustaining your wondrous creation.

We especially thank you for the miracle of life and the wonder of living;

particular blessings coming to us in this day; the resources of the earth; gifts of creative vision and skillful craft; the treasure stored in every human life.

SILENCE

We pray for others, God our Savior, claiming your love in Jesus Christ for the whole world and committing ourselves to care for those around us in his name.

We especially pray for those who work for the benefit of others; those who cannot work today; those who teach and those who learn; people who are unable to feed themselves or their families; the church in persecution.

SILENCE

God our creator, yours is the morning, and yours is the evening. Let Christ, the sun of righteousness, shine forever in our hearts and draw us to the light of your radiant glory. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer who teaches us to pray

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Follow God's Word into the World

*Hymn of Sending #282

Come Down, O Love Divine

- 1. Come down, O Love Divine; seek out this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardor glowing.
O Comforter, draw near; within my heart appear,
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.**
- 2. O let it freely burn, til earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming.
and let your glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**
- 3. And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling.
For none can guess God's grace, till Love creates a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.**

Benediction

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Postlude

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

arr. Jason Payne

Today's flowers are presented anonymously for the beautification of the church.

Spring Gathering May 19 is open to all!

Everyone (women, men and guests) is invited to the PW Spring Gathering on Monday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. in Knox Hall. Our own travelin' man, Jim Tubbs, will give a talk about his overseas adventures, including his recent trip to the Panama Canal. Desserts and beverages will be served, and PW leaders will be honored.

Tickets (\$5.00) for the Gathering will be on sale on Sundays in May at the welcome table.

CARES Food Pantry

The number of people needing assistance in providing enough food for their family continues to grow. Between 750 and 800 households are served by CARES each month. Please take home a yellow CARES shopping list, found in the pews, and take it with you on your next shopping trip. We have provided a plastic bin in the Narthex for your generous donations. Thank you for remembering your neighbors.

Cereal for Summer Campaign (May 1 – July 6)

No child should go hungry. However, many kids who rely on receiving breakfast and lunch during the school year often face long summer days without enough to eat. Join our annual CEREAL FOR SUMMER CAMPAIGN and help us feed hungry children in our presbytery. The Mission Ministry will be accepting cereal donations from May 1 until July 6. See the marked containers in the Mission Cove in the foyer. Thank you again for your continuing generosity in supporting this effort.

Donations Needed for Youth United (by June 22)

The Youth United planning committee is asking each community partner to collect the following items before Youth United begins on June 23 :

- personal care items: feminine hygiene products, tissue packs, toiletries (all sizes), hand sanitizers
- baby wipes, formula, diapers, food
- new socks (adults and kids)
- clean t-shirts (sizes adult small to large)
- gently used or new books for all age groups (from birth to adult) CARES food pantry
- non-perishable food items
- toilet paper
- laundry detergent and cleaning products
- condiments (mustard, ketchup, syrup, jellies, BBQ sauce)

Place your donations in the CARES/Youth United container located in the narthex under the Welcome Table. Thank you for your generosity and participation in Youth United!

Hospitality Time Schedule

You are invited to bring ONE food item on ONE Sunday each month. Your Sunday depends on the first letter of your last name. It would be greatly appreciated if you are also able to help with set-up or clean-up. Please note healthy options are welcome as well such as fruit, eggs, cheese & crackers, veggies etc. Here's the upcoming schedule:

May 25: Last names beginning E-K

June 1: Last names beginning L-R

June 8: Last names beginning S-Z

June 15: Last names beginning A-D



QR Code for Donations!

If you ever forget to go to the ATM, or simply don't carry cash on you, we've decided to include the church QR code for a more streamlined donation process. To donate, just scan the QR code and follow the prompt

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Pastoral Care Parish Associate

Minister of Music

Office Administrator

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