



May 28, 2023—8:30 and 9:45 am  
Sanctuary

The resurrected Christ spoke words of peace...But there was more than just peace. He breathed onto the disciples and said "receive the Holy Spirit." It is literally the breath of God with the Spirit of God that enabled them to move into this world. -Andy Lewis

Prelude *Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire* arr. by Edward Broughton

*The prelude is a bridge from our busy lives into this hour of worship.  
Feel free to greet one another during this time, or to quiet your heart in prayer and reflection.*

Community Life Update

\*Call to Worship—2023 Memory Passage (*read in unison*) Psalm 1

**Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.  
He is like a tree planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.  
The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

\*Prayer of Adoration

\*Hymns of Praise Hymnal, 101

<sup>1</sup> Come, thou Almighty King, help us thy name to sing, help us to praise:  
Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious, come, and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

<sup>2</sup> Come, thou Incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword, our prayer attend.  
Come, and thy people bless, and give thy Word success; Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

<sup>3</sup> Come, Holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour:  
Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart, and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

<sup>4</sup> To the great One in Three, eternal praises be, hence evermore.  
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore.

*Words: Anon., circa 1757; Music: Felice De Giardini, Public Domain, 1769*

\* Please stand if you are able.

Do you feel the world is broken? **We do.** Do you feel the shadows deepen? **We do.**  
But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? **We do.**  
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? **We do.**

Is all creation groaning? **It is.** Is a new creation coming? **It is.**  
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? **It is.**  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? **It is.**

**Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave; He is David's Root  
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.  
Is He worthy? Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy of this? He is.**

Does the Father truly love us? **He does.** Does the Spirit move among us? **He does.**  
And does Jesus our Messiah hold forever those He loves? **He does.**  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? **He does.**

**Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave; He is David's Root  
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.  
From ev'ry people and tribe, every nation and tongue;  
He has made us a kingdom and priests  
To God to reign with the Son. Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Is He worthy of this? He is!  
Is He worthy? Is He worthy? He is! He is!**

*Words: Ben Shive and Andrew Peterson, from Revelation 5; Music: Shive and Peterson, arr. Dan Forrest, quoting G.F. Handel;  
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Scripture Reading

Acts 2:1-4, 12-14, 22, 32-33

Reader: This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God!**

Affirmation of Faith

from the Heidelberg Catechism, Question 20

Q. What do you believe concerning the Holy Spirit?

**A. I believe that the Holy Spirit is, together with the Father and the Son, true and eternal God.  
And I believe that He is also given to me, to make me—by true faith— share in Christ and all his benefits,  
to comfort me, and to remain with me forever.**

Confession of Sin

Romans 8:18, 22-23, 26-28

Moment of Silent Confession

Words of Grace and Peace

Revelation 21:3-5a; 22:16-17

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new..."

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price."

## Choral Meditation

No more sickness, no more crying—your mourning will turn to dancing;  
I will make a pathway in the wilderness, and a river in the dry land.  
No more hatred, no indifference—unfairness will yield to justice.  
I will make a passage to a free land, where I'll gather all the nations.  
I will wipe all your tears... I will wipe all your tears from your eyes.

*A new Jerusalem, arise—a new creation, come alive; into the dawning after dark.  
A new Jerusalem, arise—a new creation, come alive; into the dawning after dark, arise!*

Only kindness, only goodness; all people will live compassion,  
Hand in hand they love and work together, walking in the Spirit.  
I will wipe all your tears... I will wipe all your tears from your eyes.

I am making all things new—I am making all things new.  
After fire, after flood, after rain, I am making all things new.  
Through the dark through the doubt, through the pain,  
I am making all things new.  
After fire, after flood, after rain, I am making all things new.

Come, people; all people! Arise, arise, arise...A new Jerusalem, arise!

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## \*Hymn of Worship

*K4-K5 may leave for Kids Ministry.*

*8:30 am—One parent will need to escort the child to volunteers in the Commons Area for Kids Church.*

*9:45 am—One parent will need to escort the child downstairs to join Kids Sunday School.*

There is a higher throne than all this world has known,  
Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue will one day come.  
Before the Son we'll stand, made faultless through the Lamb,  
Believing hearts find promised grace, salvation comes.

*Hear heaven's voices sing - their thund'rous anthem rings  
Through em'erald courts and sapphire skies - their praises rise:  
"All glory, wisdom, pow'r, strength, thanks, and honor are  
To God our King who reigns on high forever more."*

And there we'll find our home, our life before the throne;  
We'll honor Him in perfect song where we belong.  
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye as thirst and hunger die;  
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King we'll reign with Him.

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## Pastoral Prayer

### Scripture Reading

Exodus 15:1-21

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon *Doubts, Dilemmas and Disagreements: Is There Only One True Religion?*

Andy Lewis

\*Hymn of Response

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast.  
When the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold, through life's fearful path.  
For my love is often cold, he must hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast.  
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.*

Those he saves are his delight, Christ will hold me fast.  
Precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost, his promises shall last.  
Bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.

For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast.  
Justice has been satisfied, he will hold me fast.  
Raised with him to endless life, he will hold me fast.  
Till our faith is turned to sight, when he comes at last.

*"He Will Hold Me Fast" Words: Ada Ruth Habershon (v. 1-2) and Matt Merker;  
Music: Matt Merker ©2013 Getty Music, Song No. 7016161, CCLI No. 789870*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

*We are grateful for your sacrificial giving that supports the work of this church. To give, you can visit [give.mitchellroad.org](http://give.mitchellroad.org).  
Tithes and Offerings may also be placed in the giving box at the exits of the Sanctuary as you leave.*

**Assisting in Worship Today:**

Preacher: Andy Lewis, Lead Teaching Pastor

Liturgist: Curtis DuBose, Equip the Church Pastor (8:30); Stephen Reed, Head of School, MRCA (9:45)

Soteria—One Day Elective Today, 9:45 am

Jerry Blassingame from Soteria, a ministry to those released from incarceration, will be here today in B111. Soteria advocates for economic and social justice for those and their families impacted by the criminal justice system. They work to create opportunities for previously incarcerated individuals to reenter society through transitional housing, life skills, and job training.

*(Elective—The Beginner's Guide to the End of the World will resume next Sunday.)*

Second Saturday Spiritual Retreats Scheduled for this Summer

Our spiritual retreats are an opportunity to set aside focused time to hear from the Lord, meditate on His Word, and rest in the peace that comes only from Him. June 10, July 8 and August 12 we will have spiritual retreats on campus from 8:30 am—1:00 pm. We will provide guidance, quiet space and breakfast and lunch, and the Lord will provide the rest. Email [souten@mitchellroad.org](mailto:souten@mitchellroad.org) to register.

Exploring Prayer 2023—This Week's Prayer

Pray for those at all levels of government in our country - may God grow hearts of repentance and humility.  
(Romans 13:1-7; Philippians 2:1-11; Colossians 1:15-20)

The church office will be closed tomorrow, Monday, May 29, for the Memorial Day holiday.