

WORSHIP SERVICE  
MAY 5, 2024, 10:00AM  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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PRELUDE

O Spirit of God

Johann Sebastian Bach

\*HYMN #250

Here in This Place

Gather Us In

Verses 1-3

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 98)

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song,

**People: For the Lord has done marvelous things.**

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

**People: break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre  
and the sound of melody.

**People: With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

Leader: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and  
those who live in it.

**People: Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills  
sing together for joy.**

**All: Let us rejoice in the presence of the Lord!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Lord God, with joyous song we come before you aware of both  
our sinful nature and Your resurrection grace. We confess the  
darkness that has been entombed within us far too long: anger  
and disappointment, bitterness and frustration, envy and  
jealousy. In so many ways we have denied You, betrayed You,**

and deserted You in word and in deed. This morning, Lord, we ask you to roll away the stones from our hearts, and allow Your healing light and life to renew our spirits. Forgive us for past wrongs, and awaken in us the Easter promise of new life. Allow us to rise again with Your Son, so that we might live as new people to Your glory. With humility and hope, we offer this prayer to You, along with the silent confessions of our hearts.

*Silence*

**Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God's love for us is greater than the sin we commit against God. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. This is the Good News we proclaim in this place: when we confess our sins before God and one another, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**People: Alleluia! Amen!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*Children in grades Pre-K through Grade 4 recess to Smith Hall to meet your teachers for the Chapel service. Grades 5-7 remain in the Meeting House.*

\*HYMN (*see page 7*)

In Christ There Is No East or West

St. Peter

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 10:44-48

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Spirit Driven Change”

The Rev. Kent Siladi

SERMON RESPONSE

Let It Breathe on Me

Magnolia Lewis-Butts

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As a congregation, we pray together – through word, silence, and  
The Lord's Prayer (sins)

PRAYER RESPONSE

Amen, Amen

Spiritual, arr. Nelsie Johnson

CALL TO OFFERING

*Please pass the burgundy welcome books*

OFFERTORY

Haleluya—Thuma Mina

Traditional South African

*Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona, di thabile kaofela.*

Hallelujah! All our hearts are filled with gladness.

*Thuma mina Somandla.*

Send me, Lord.

\*DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS (unison) Lasst uns erfreuen

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*(We eat the bread as we receive it. We drink the cup together.)*

COMMUNION MUSIC

I'm a-Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

Spiritual, arr. Carl Diton

\*HYMN #366

We Are Walking

Siyahamba

1. We are walking in the light of God.
2. We are praying in the light of God.
3. We are singing in the light of God.

## BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

We Are Walking in the Light of God

Marianne Kim

\*Congregation please stand.

Thank you to Katrina Hering and Peter & Karen Wilson for hosting our fellowship time this morning. Please join us for coffee in Smith Hall immediately following the service.

### ARE YOU VISITING OUR CHURCH TODAY?

Welcome, and thank you for worshipping with us! If you have questions about our church or wish to join us for our next new member class, please contact Anna Rogers at (203) 274-0097 or [welcoming@godsacre.org](mailto:welcoming@godsacre.org).

### NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

#### CHAPEL SUNDAY

Today we will offer a Chapel service for children through grade 4. Children involved in the church musical will meet with Miss Greer during church school. Grades 5-7 will remain in the Meeting House for communion. All children will be picked up in their classrooms.

#### COMMUNION WORKSHOP FOR FOURTH GRADE – MAY 19

Calling all 4<sup>th</sup> graders! We will be holding a communion workshop on Sunday, May 19, during church school in preparation for the fourth grade First Communion on Sunday, June 2. Please see your email for registration information or reach out to [churchschool@godsacre.org](mailto:churchschool@godsacre.org).

#### MAY PLATE OFFERING

The May plate offering will go towards the Maasai Goat project.

## MAASAI 2024 – GOTTA GET SOME GOATS

This month we honor our African brothers and sisters in Kenya. Our Church has supported the Maasai through our partner, the Simba Maasai Outreach Organization (SIMOO), for many years. We have provided funding to install solar panels for community wells, and last year, we gave funds that allowed the women of the tribe to tend beehives.

As the Maasai move forward from a catastrophic years-long drought, they are slowly acquiring livestock to care for. This year, our SIMOO partners have requested funds (\$22,000) to purchase 400 goats for over 200 families in the tribe. These goats will be tended by the women of the tribe as they identify new income sources. Prior to the drought, the Maasai women sold cow's milk and beads to earn money to support their families. The drought wiped out the cattle population. As the men slowly begin to herd again, there is an immediate need for women's economic opportunities. Goat keeping is a sustainable livelihood that will provide women with goat's milk to sell in the Kenyan market; goat milk sells twice the price of cow's milk. The women who will benefit from the goats this year are primarily widows and single mothers. Each woman will be given two goats to tend.

We ask that you support our Maasai partners in purchasing goats to further economic development. Each goat costs \$55, and with your help, we will quickly reach our goal of purchasing 400 goats! Please stop by the Maasai table during Fellowship time to learn more and participate. Contact Lindsay Tucker at [lindsaytucker08@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaytucker08@gmail.com).

## MSYG FUNDRAISING WEEKEND: CAR WASH & BAKE SALE

Please join us on Saturday, May 11, for our annual MSYG Car Wash from 10:00am-2:00pm. Stop by God's Acre to get your car washed by our Middle School Youth Group and help them raise money for their mission trip to Mountainside this June. \$20 per car includes a wash and parking for the May Fair!

On Sunday, May 12, our congregation will commission our MSYG Mountainside participants for the important work they will do on their June trip. Immediately following the 10:00am service, MSYGers will host a Mother's Day Bake Sale in Smith Hall. We hope to see you there!

### MSYG MOUNTAINSIDE MISSION TRIP – DEADLINE TODAY!

MSYG Trip to Mountainside takes place June 7-9 for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is a transformative weekend during which we experience God's love by serving our neighbors at Mountainside Treatment Center. Ask any fish who has ever attended, and they will tell you of the transformative power of this mission weekend. If you have questions, please contact Kelly Antonson at [leather@godsacre.org](mailto:leather@godsacre.org).

### PFLAG SUPPORT GROUP

Are you or someone you care about a member of the LGBTQIA+ community? Founded in 1973, PFLAG is the first and largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and their families. We will host a PFLAG support group meeting for adults (18+) in the Parlor on Thursday, May 9 from 6:30-7:30pm to share joys and struggles and lift each other up. RSVPs aren't necessary, but feel free to email [polly.obrienmorrow@gmail.com](mailto:polly.obrienmorrow@gmail.com) for more information.

### RECOVERY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKDAY - MAY 18

Please join us on Saturday, May 18, from 9:00am-2:00pm in prepping sober living spaces for men transitioning from substance abuse treatment to new lives in a newly refurbished home. Meet in the church circle at 9:00am to carpool to Bridgeport. No experience is needed, just an open heart! To RSVP or with questions, contact Marianna Kilbride at [marianna@godsacre.org](mailto:marianna@godsacre.org).

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) REGISTRATION OPEN!

VBS 2024: Carrying the Torch registration for the week of August 19-22 is now open. Register your camper (4 years old-4th grade), your junior counselor (entering 5<sup>th</sup>-8th grade), or your senior counselor (entering 9<sup>th</sup>-12th grade) to join us for a week of faith-building and fellowship. See your email for sign-up links, or please reach out to [churchschool@godsacre.org](mailto:churchschool@godsacre.org).

### YOUTH MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

5/5 MSYG (Grades 7-8), 4:00-5:30pm, Shaving Cream Wars (bring a towel for your ride home!)

5/5 YG (Grades 9-12), 7:00-8:30pm, Spring into Service

5/7 Minnows (Grades K-2), 3:30-4:30pm

5/7 JYG/Guppies (Grades 3-6), 4:30-5:30pm

# In Christ There Is No East or West



1 In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;  
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery-where their high com - mu - nion find;  
3 In Christ is nei - ther Jew nor Greek, and nei - ther slave nor free;  
4 In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;



But one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.  
God's ser - vice is the gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.  
For men and wom - en live in God, and all are kin to me.  
One joy - ous, true com - mu - ni - ty through-out the whole wide earth.



PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Kent Siladi

*Pastor in Residence*

Marianna Kilbride

*Director of Spiritual Formation*

Lindsay Tucker

*Maasai Liaison*

Dr. Michael Burnette

*Interim Director of Music Ministries*

Anneliese Klenetsky, soprano

*Soloist*

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Twee Haffner

We are a welcoming, inclusive, and compassionate church community where difference and diversity are valued. We gather to promote the love and knowledge of the God revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Redeemer and Friend, and welcome all to participate in the life of our church regardless of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, ability, marital status, or sexual orientation.

We invite you to make your 2024 pledge today.

