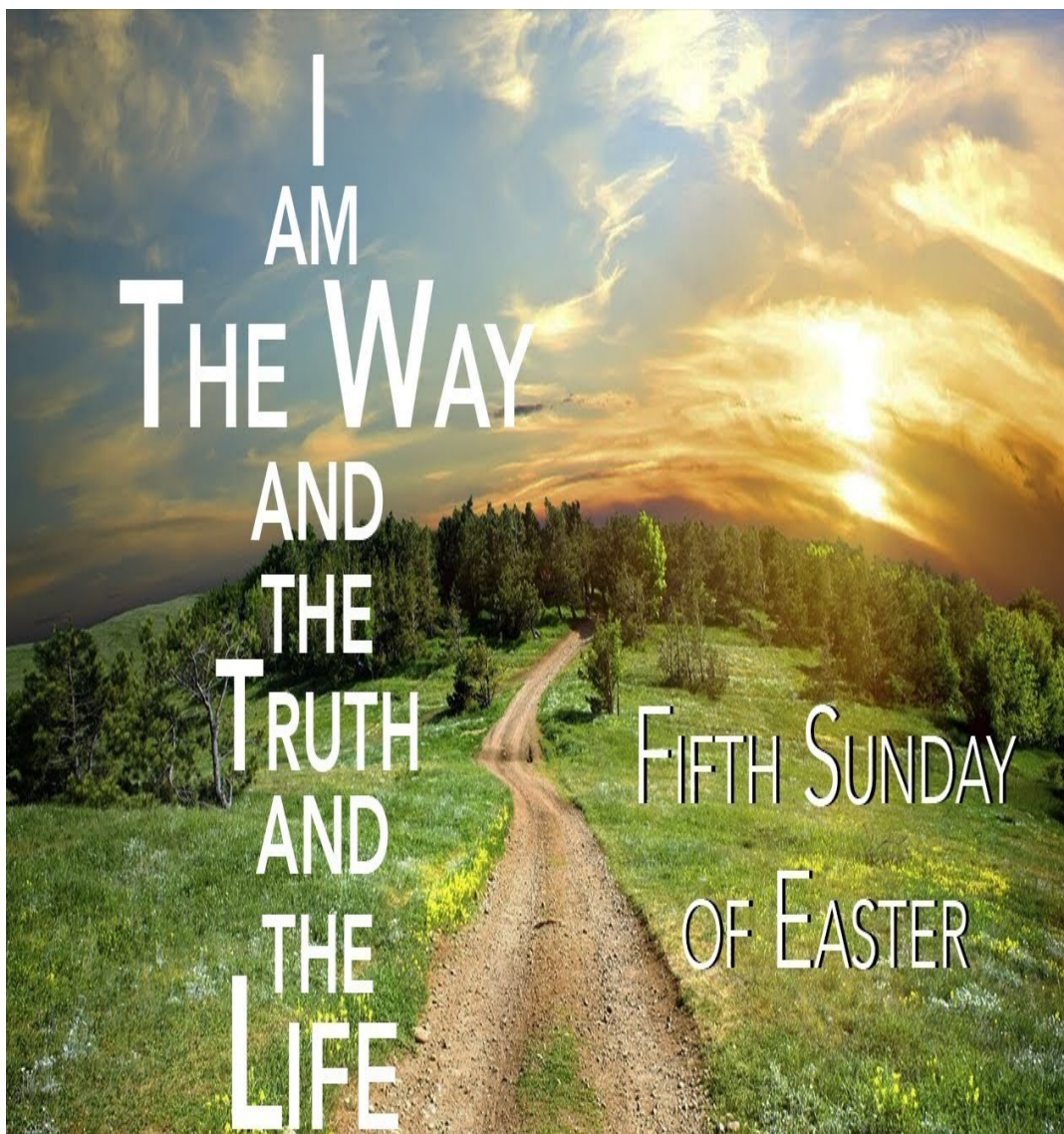


# FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, May 18, 2025



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*"Helping Others See Jesus' Grace In Me"*

# Order of Worship

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

*\*Congregation Stands/Rise in spirit*

### GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*INTROIT #119 (AA) ..... "Thou Art Worthy"**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**LEADER:** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**PEOPLE:** Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

**LEADER:** Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

**PEOPLE:** Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

**LEADER:** Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

**ALL:** He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed

**\*OPENING HYMN #120 (AA) ..... "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"**

### **\* PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION (*Unison*)**

**This is the Lord's Day, and we come with hearts full of awe and gratitude. O God, you love us like a mother and shelter us like a father. You wipe away our tears and restore our souls. You have claimed us as your beloved in a world you are making new. Dwell among us, that we may worship you in spirit and in truth, and love one another as you have loved us. Amen.**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

The world often judges by outward appearances, but Jesus reveals to us a deeper reality. When we fail to live in the new way of love he commands, we distance ourselves from the truth and pretend to possess a righteousness that is only ours through Christ. In this new promise, and knowing God's steadfast love is trustworthy and true, let us confess our shortcomings together, seeking the Spirit's new workings within us.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(unison)*

Loving God, you offer us mercy and grace without condition, like the love of a faithful bridegroom. Yet we often withhold that same mercy from others, judging who is worthy in our own hearts. We forget your command to love as you have loved us. Forgive us, Redeeming God, and transform our hearts with your amazing grace, that our lives and relationships may reflect your love. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Behold: The former things have passed away, and God’s grace flows like a river of new life. Friends, hear the good news: through the grace of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! You are made anew!

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**SPECIAL SELECTION** ..... **FUPCC Choir**  
"Yes, God Is Real" *Spiritual*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**..... **Rev. Delton H. Farmer**  
Gracious and Loving God, as you once declared, “See, I am making all things new.” So now, through your Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds to your transforming word in Scripture. Grant us a new vision of the height, depth, and breadth of your trustworthy and true love, that we may be inspired to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, reflecting the new creation you have begun in us. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** ..... **Rev. Delton H. Farmer**  
**OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 148**  
**NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 11:1-18**

**SERMON** .....**Rev. Delton H. Farmer**  
"This Is Beyond My Understanding ..... Called To Trust And To Praise"

**INVITATIONAL HYMN #345 (AA)**.....**"Just As I Am"**

**INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**  
**THE LORD’S PRAYER/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**BAPTISM**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** - from a Brief Statement of Faith (*unison*)  
We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING** (*Collectors asked to come forward*)  
Just as God pours out new blessings without measure, let us, with hearts overflowing with gratitude for this divine generosity in our lives, offer ourselves and our resources for the ongoing ministry of Jesus Christ in this new creation being ushered in. . *You may give online @ fupcc.org, mail your gifts to the church office, 406 N. College Street, 28202, or give to the officers as they pass the collection plate. Remember, all we have, and all we are, belong to God. Let us give with a cheerful heart. Amen*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**..... **FUPCC Choir**  
"It's Alright"

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**  
Generous God, receive these gifts that we place before your throne. Do more with them than we can ask or imagine, furthering the holy work of your new kingdom in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who revealed to us the truth of your loving commands.

**CLOSING HYMN #129 (AA)**.....**"Lord, Keep Me Day By Day"**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**..... **Rev. Delton H. Farmer**  
Live into the hope of Christ's resurrection! Honor the God who calls you to new life! May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you now and always. Amen.

**RESPONSE** .....**"Three-Fold AMEN"**

**POSTUDE**