



And it was...
So Very Good!

Fifth Sunday of Easter | May 7th 2023

***Please stand
As you are able**

Welcome and Announcements

Trinity Chimes

Prelude *Variations on St. MAGNUS* (UMH #326)
Janet Tolman

***Call to Worship:**

One :In the beginning, God saw that all was "very good".

**All: Today, let this time of worship be as it was in the beginning,
so very good!**

***Hymn of Praise** 529 How Firm a Foundation FOUNDATION

1. "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
3. "When through deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
4. "When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

Opening Prayer

God of grace and life, found both within and without the structures of humanity, nothing can contain you, and yet you come among us and dwell in our hearts. You whisper to us of harmony and possibility and teach us that what the world casts aside, you treasure. What the world rejects, you welcome. Give us courage amidst the sticks and stones of life so that we may proclaim your good news to all, everywhere. Amen.

Scripture Lesson *Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 (UMH 764)*

In you, O Lord I seek refuge;

let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness, deliver me!

**Incline your ear to me,
rescue me speedily!**

**Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!**

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;

**Take me out of the net which is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.**

Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me O Lord, faithful God.

My times are in your hand;
Deliver me from the hand of my enemies and
persecutors.

**Let your face shine on your servant;
save me through your steadfast love!**

Children's Moment

Music of Preparation *As We Gather at Your Table*
by K. Lee Scott
The Chancel Choir

Scripture Lesson Acts 6:8-14, 7:1, 51-60 and 1 Peter 2:2-7

Sermon So Very Good Pt. 2

***Passing of the Peace**

Invitation Offering

Offertory *How Can I Keep from Singing* arr. J. Honore

John Neve, solo

***Doxology 94** *Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise
God, all creatures here be low: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise
Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts! Praise
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Offertory Prayer**

Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You shaped us from the dust of the earth and breathed life into us,
forming humanity in your image.
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we
praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the
highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from our slavery to sin
and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in
remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is the new covenant,
poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we
offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living
sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the
mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of
food and drink. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his
blood.

**By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until
Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly
banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in
your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father
(God), now and forever.**

Amen

1. In remembrance of me, eat this bread.
In remembrance of me, drink this wine.
In remembrance of me, pray for the time when
God's own will is done.

2. In remembrance of me, heal the sick.
In remembrance of me, feed the poor.
In remembrance of me, open the door and
let your neighbors in, let them in. Take,
eat, and be comforted; drink and
remember, too, that this is my body
and precious blood shed for you,
shed for you.

3. In remembrance of me, search for truth.
In remembrance of me, always love
In remembrance of me don't look above,
but in your heart, look for God.
Do this in remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

**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**

***Sending Hymn 2216** *When We Are Called to Sing Your*

Praise **KINGSFOLD**

1. When we are called to sing your praise with hearts so filled with pain that we would rather sit and weep or stand up to complain, remind us, God you understand the burdens that we bear; you, too, have walked the shadowed way and known our deep despair.
2. When we are called to sing your praise and cannot find our voice, because our losses leave us now no reason to rejoice, remind us, God that you accept our sad laments in prayer; you, too, have walked the shadowed way and known our deep despair.
3. When we are called to sing your praise and life ahead looks grim, still give us faith and hope enough to break forth in a hymn, a thankful hymn, great God of Love, that you are everywhere; you walk the shadowed way with us and keep us in your care.

***Benediction**

**May the Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace. Amen**

Postlude

Toccata

Ramon Noble

Liturgist: Lynda Turrentine

Stephen Minister: Georgia Carmichael

Thank you to all of the volunteers and staff who made this service possible!

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“In Remembrance of Me”

Words: Ragan Courtney (Matt. 6:10; Cor. 11:23-25)

“When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise”

Words: Mary Nelson Keithahn

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