

*Order of Worship*  
*SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE EASTER SEASON*  
9:30 am – May 5, 2024

**Participating Live?**

*Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.*

**PRELUDE**

*O Lord Most Holy*  
Public Domain  
David Wheatley, organ

Cesar Franck

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive)

Fran Turner, liturgist

L: Beloved, we are called to love one another, because love is from God.

**P: God's love is poured in us from our birth.**

L: We are called to extend the love of God to all people.

**P: God's loved is taught to us through the witness of God's faithful people.**

L: We are called to proclaim God's love in all that we say and do.

**P: In all creation, in all our relationships, may God's love be made known. AMEN.**

Nancy C. Townsend

**OPENING HYMN**

*How Can We Name a Love*

UMH 111

Words: Brian Wren, 1973. ©1975 Hope Publishing Company, Song #25728. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #734744-A. All rights reserved.

Music: Trad. English melody; adapt. by Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915. Public Domain.

1. How can we name a Love that wakens heart and mind,  
indwelling all we know or think or do or seek or find?  
Within our daily world, in every human face,  
Love's echoes sound and God is found, hid in the commonplace.
2. If we awoke to life built on a rock of care  
that asked no great reward but firm, assured, was simply there,  
we can, with parents' names, describe, and thus adore,  
Love unconfined, a father kind, a mother strong and sure.
3. When people share a task, and strength and skills unite  
in projects old or new, to make or do with shared delight,  
our Friend and Partner's will is better understood,  
that all should share, create, and care, and know that life is good.
4. So in a hundred names, each day we all can meet  
a presence, sensed and shown at work, at home, or in the street.  
Yet every name we see, shines in a brighter sun:  
In Christ alone is Love full grown and life and hope begun.

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**SCRIPTURE**

*John 15: 9-17* (NRSV)  
The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Fran Turner, liturgist

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT** (Children and Youth come to the steps for a word from the pastor)

**PREPARATION HYMN**

*Bind Us Together*  
CCLI / Streaming: 345977 / 20105371 / CCLI Song # 1228

TFWS 2226

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together  
with cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord,  
bind us together in love.

There is only one God, there is only one King;  
There is only one body, that is why we sing.

**MESSAGE**

Pastor Cindy Huskey

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**

*The Love of God*

Natalie Sleeth

Song # CGA471. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service  
obtained from One License with license #734744-A. All rights reserved.

VFUMC Chancel Choir; Bob Riggs, guest conductor; David Wheatley, piano

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Creator God, as we come to this time of offering, allow us to give our gifts freely and generously in the same spirit in which Jesus shared his love for others. Christ displayed love as being patient, respectful, strong, and as a gift to all who received it. Bless our gifts. Open our hearts today, Lord. Imprint your message of love upon them, that all we say and do is done in your name and for the sake of your people and your world. AMEN.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Easter is such a wonderful season, Lord. Hope springs anew in our hearts. As the earth is being refreshed by the warmth of spring, so we have been refreshed and made new by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. And we want to stay in this euphoria forever. But you have called us to go into the valley, to those who need to hear of your love and to feel your caring presence. In his words of hope, Jesus prepared his disciples to be witnesses. We have heard these words before, but far too often, we have turned our backs to this message. We don't quite believe that we are capable of actually living our whole lives in your love. So we act in ways that are often neglectful and hurtful of others. We take more time pampering ourselves than we do helping other people. It is easier to justify our selfish desires than it is to witness to your transforming love. Stop us in our tracks, O Lord. Turn us around. Help us to face our weakness and your forgiving grace. Heal us of our sins and place us again on the paths of peace. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

The commandment that we have from Christ Jesus is that we love one another, treating each other as beloved brothers and sisters. **We will abide in God's eternal love.**

May the power of God's love penetrate your hearts and spirits, preparing you for new growth in the Spirit.  
**AMEN .**

**THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION** (found on p. 17 of The United Methodist Hymnal)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Let us lift up our 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.**  
... And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:  
**Sung: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth  
are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one  
who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

... As we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Sung: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

... All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.  
**Sung: Amen.**

(UM Book of Worship, The Methodist Publishing House, ©1972)

Words: Public Domain. Music: Elise Eslinger. ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. Song #231882. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #734744-A. All rights reserved.

#### **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.**

#### **\*BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen**

#### **SENDING HYMN**

*I Come with Joy*

UMH 617

Words: Brain Wren, 1968, ©1971 Hope Publishing Co. Song #95155, Music: The Southern Harmony, 1835, Harmony: Charles H. Webb, 1987. Harmony ©1989, The United Methodist Publishing House, Song #08510. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #734744-A. All rights reserved.

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free, in awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me, his life laid down for me.
2. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.
4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His presence, always near, is in such friendship better known; we see and praise him here, we see and praise him here.
- 5 Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways, and as his people in the world, we'll live and speak his praise, we'll live and speak his praise.

#### **BENEDICTION**

#### **POSTLUDE**

*Little Fugue in G Minor, BWV 578*  
Public Domain  
David Wheatley, organ

J.S. Bach

#### ***Prayer Requests***

**Scott UMC of Pasadena —Pastor Alma Johnson-Hawkins**

**Magnolia Park UMC—Pastor Rich Garner**

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.