

*Order of Worship*  
*FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE EASTER SEASON/UMCOR SUNDAY*  
9:30 am – April 28, 2024

***Participating Live?***

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

**PRELUDE**

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*  
Public Domain.  
Cathi Peterson, organ

J. Barnby

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

Karen Flock, liturgist

We are all welcome in this place.  
**Who could separate us from the love of God?**  
Nobody and nothing can take God's love from us.  
**We are all children of God.**  
We are all heirs to the abundant love of God.  
**And nothing and no one can take that from us.**  
**Let us worship God together here.**

**OPENING HYMN**

*Gather Us In*

TFWS 2236

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1. Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away,  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in the lost and forsaken, gather us in the blind and the lame;  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young our lives are a mystery, we are the old who yearn for your face,  
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in the rich and the haughty, gather us in the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.
3. Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth,  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;  
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
4. Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, lightyears away,  
But here in this place the new light is shining, now is the Kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;  
Gather us in all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

**PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.**

**SCRIPTURE**

*Acts 8: 26-40 (NRSV)*  
The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Karen Flock, liturgist

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

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*  
CCLI / Streaming: 345977 / 20105371 / CCLI Song # 3184437

UMH 402

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
- 2 Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
- 3 Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
- 4 Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

**MESSAGE**

Rev. Diane Rehfield

**MUSICAL RESPONSE***Awake, Awake!*

Craig Courtney

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VFUMC Chancel Choir, KuanFen Liu- guest conductor, Cathi Peterson - piano

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Holy God, you pour out the gift of your love on all the earth, and for all the people. Yet we know that there are some who struggle, with money, with housing, with hunger, and with physical and mental illness. We are grateful for the opportunity to show our love for you in offering these gifts today. May they be a balm for all who suffer, who feel excluded, who are in need, not only in our community, but across the world.**

**SENDING HYMN***A Place At the Table* (1-3, 5)

W&amp;S 3149

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- 1 For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead.

**Refrain:** And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, yes, God will delight  
when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

- 2 For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair. **[Refrain]**

- 3 For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong. **[Refrain]**

- 5 For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free. **[Refrain]**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*God Gave to Us This Glorious Day*  
Public Domain  
Cathi Peterson, organ

J. G. Walther

*Prayer Requests*

**Thousand Oaks UMC**—Pastor Anna Mulford

**Lancaster UMC**—Pastor Gregory Pittman

The family of Jane Winter who passed away on 4/17

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.

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