

WORSHIP OF GOD
FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 2024 Eleven o'clock in the Morning
Website: 1stucc.org Facebook: First United Church of Christ-Salisbury
Office Telephone: 704-633-2723

First UCC's Mission Statement
"To grow in faith, love and fellowship as we serve God and all of our community."

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Come one, come all for all are indeed welcome in this space
ALL: Are you sure? Sometimes we haven't been welcomed.
One: God shows no partiality. God calls us all God's children, God's beloved
ALL: We come then, as we are. With all our struggles, with all our fears, with all our inadequacies, we come.
One: God welcomes you as you are. God accepts you as you are.
ALL: We come then to give thanks to this God who loves unconditionally.
One: For no matter who you are, or where you are this journey of life we come here to worship our Creator, our Sustainer, and our Redeemer.

†Hymn: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*
Red Hymnal No. 21

†Prayer of Confession

ALL: O God you call us to first abide in Your love and then to love one another. We come to acknowledge our failure to do either of these well. We don't think we are deserving of Your love, hence we find it hard to accept. Then, because we don't feel that we deserve Your love, we have a hard time loving others. It becomes a vicious circle. Forgive us our failures, O God. Fill us with Your love and as we taste that love may we open our hearts to being more loving toward others, we pray this in the name of love. Amen.

†Silent Reflections

(30 seconds of silence is observed for silent reflections)

Kyrie: *Shepherd Lead*

Shep - herd, lead, lead me in your righ-teous-ness,
make your way plain be - fore my face. For it is you, God,
you, God on - ly, who makes me to lie down in safe - ty.

The musical score for 'Shepherd Lead' is written in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: 'Shep - herd, lead, lead me in your righ-teous-ness, make your way plain be - fore my face. For it is you, God, you, God on - ly, who makes me to lie down in safe - ty.'

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†Our Assurance of God's Pardon

†The Gloria Patri

1 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score for 'The Gloria Patri' is written in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: '1 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!'

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†Hymn: *Filled With the Spirit's Power*

1 Filled with the Spir - it's power, all hearts as one,
 2 Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,
 3 Wid - en our love, good Spir - it, to em - brace

the in - fant church con-fessed Christ's vic - tory won.
 that u - ni - ty may be our great de - sire.
 in your strong care all those of ev - ery race.

O Ho - ly Spir - it, in the church to - day
 Give joy and peace; give faith to know your call,
 Like wind and fire with life a - mong us move,

no less your un - i - fy - ing power dis - play.
 and read - i - ness in each to work for all.
 till we are known as Christ's, and Chris - tians prove.

Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17

Leader: This is a word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

“The Gospel in One Word: LOVE”

Rev. Carol Hallman

†An Affirmation of Faith

The UCC Statement of Faith

ALL: We believe in You, O God, the Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to Your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in Your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by Your righteous will, declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, You have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death, and reconciling the world to Yourself.

You bestow upon us Your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.

You call us into Your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be Your servant in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world, and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at His table, to join Him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust You forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, Your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in Your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto You. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader: May the Spirit of God be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

(debts, debtors)

Prayer Response: *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord*

Red Hymnal No. 501

Invitation

Offertory

†Doxology

We give you but your own, what - e'er the gift may be;

All that we have is yours a - lone, we give it grate-ful - ly.

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Blessing

† Communion Hymn: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

(Refrain 1st time soft, repeat loud.)

Refrain



Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

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The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation to the Table

The Communion Prayer

Leader: God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Call to Supper

Sung Response: *The Gifts of God*

Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan



The gifts of God for the peop-le of God! Come now, for all is pre-pared. The



gifts of God for the peop-le of God! The Gos - pel is a - mong us!

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Sharing the Elements

All are invited to come forward for communion this morning. There are gluten free crackers or bread offered. Please dispose of your cup before returning to your pew.

Special Music

Prayer of Thanksgiving

ALL: We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

†Hymn: **What A Friend We Have in Jesus**

Red Hymnal No. 472

Benediction

Postlude

Assisting in Worship

Rev. Carol Hallman, Resident Pastor

Laurie Klaus, Guest Pianist

Carolyn Cline, Lay Reader



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Remember in Your Prayers

Desiree Artz, Brenda Bernhardt, Tyler Bernhardt, Rev. Warren Casiday, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky’s sister), Betty Diehl, Stacy Erb, Roger Hogendorn (grandson on Linda Hauze), Emily Hauze (daughter-in-law of Linda Hauze), Rick Lockhart (Radell Lockhart’s uncle), Jim Lyerly, John Marion, Shirley McNeil, Eddie Meeker, Dan Morgan, Pat Norris, Patsy Paxton, Glenda Shrewsbury, Patty & Mark Shuping and family, Romas & Sarah Shuping, Claire Skinner, Molly Tripp and Baby Owen Scott (Lucy Robinson’s granddaughter and great-grandson), Tom Troutman, Barbara Waller, Waylon Ward, Eric Webster, Janette Yost, Charlotte officers who were injured or lost their lives during this week’s incident along with their families. ***If you know of anyone who should be added or removed from our prayer list, let the office know. If you have prayer concerns, please text, call or email Pastor Carol.***

Today, May 5

3:00 p.m..... Women’s Tea

Monday, May 6

6:00 p.m..... Circle 7 Meeting

Tuesday, May 7

6:30 p.m..... Circle 6 Meeting

Thursday, May 9

11:30 a.m..... Primetimers

5:30 p.m..... Mission Committee Meeting

6:00 p.m..... Finance Committee Meeting

We hope you will be able to return to the Church this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. for an **Afternoon Tea** with tea and light finger foods. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you at this new event sponsored by First UCC Church Women.

Circle 7 will meet at for a Dutch-Treat Dinner at Wong's Chinese Restaurant tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m. If you plan to attend, please contact Flo or Phyllis later today.

Primetimers will meet on Thursday at 11:30 a.m. for a lunch and a fun and games program. Sarah Schiemann will be hosting our meeting with a "Memorial Day Picnic" Theme and providing a complimentary meal. Please consider joining us. If you plan to attend, please contact the Church Office or Larry Bolick by Tuesday.

The **Strengthen the Church Offering** will be received on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, during Worship. First UCC is a UCC 5 for 5 Church. Being 5 for 5 means that our church is a leader, providing support to Our Church's Wider Mission and the Special Mission Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen The Church, Neighbors In Need and The Christmas Fund.

IN SEARCH OF ... large old blue tablecloth that was with the flower cross on Easter.