

May 10, 2026 + 10:30 A.M.
Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

We Join in Worship

Liturgist: Carol Callaway

If you need extra space for a wheelchair or walker, or if you have young children with you, please feel free to make use of our Prayground, the extra space across the aisle from the sound booth.

PRELUDE God, Give Us Christian Homes

B.B. McKinney Arr. Cindy Berry

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*THE PEACE OF CHRIST

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from *Psalms* 98)

Leader: O sing to the LORD a new song, for she has done marvelous things.

ALL: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Leader: Let us sing praises to God our Mother with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

ALL: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Leader: With trumpets and the sound of the horn, make a joyful noise before God our Mother.

ALL: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Leader: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and all those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of God our Mother, who is coming to judge the earth She will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

ALL: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Let us worship God our Mother!

*OPENING HYMN "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" (Glory to God 250)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

Leader: The author or *1 Peter* writes, "Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame." Let us offer our prayer of confession to cleanse our consciences.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O God our Mother, you are the source of all Wisdom and courage. You nurse us and raise us up. You teach us how to live. You teach us how to love. You nourish us. You protect us. You inspire us. And yet, we often ignore your Wisdom. We seek guidance elsewhere. We seek sustenance elsewhere. We fail to honor you. Forgive us as a mother forgives her children. In the name of Jesus Christ, child of Mary, we pray. Amen.

KYRIE: Glory to God, No. 579 (unison)

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear the good news. Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring us to God.

ALL: **Jesus Christ is risen, and we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!**

GLORIA MATRI (577)

Glory be to the Mother, and the Son, and Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now, ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

STATEMENT OF FAITH: (From *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

EMBODIED WORD FOR DISCIPLES OF ALL AGES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God our Mother, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the light of eternity.

Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit, that we may feel your words of new life in our reading of the scriptures. In the name of Jesus Christ, child of Mary, we pray. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: *Deuteronomy 32:9 -14*

EPISTLE LESSON: *1 Peter 3:13-18*

GOSPEL LESSON: *Acts 1:6-14*

SERMON *Feeling It All*

CHORAL ANTHEM *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*

We Respond in Faith

OFFERING INVITATION:

Leader: God loves us as a mother loves her children. Let us give our tithes, pledges, and offerings so that we may more effectively share that love with the world. If you are here in person, please place your offering in the plate as it is passed. If you are worshiping from home, please mail in your checks or use our online giving option on the website. Now let us practice stewardship as we listen to today's offertory.

OFFERTORY Simple Gifts Traditional Shaker Melody

Arr. Cindy Berry

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known;
Creator, Word, and Spirit one;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Unison)

O God our Mother, you have listened to our prayers and offered us your wisdom. We dedicate these gifts to you and to your mission of sharing love with all. Guide us with your wisdom as we use these gifts. In the name of Jesus Christ, child of Mary, we pray. Amen.

We Go Into the World

***CLOSING HYMN** “Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us” (Glory to God 44)

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE How Firm A Foundation

Joseph Funk arr. Cindy Berry

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* So that we can properly greet people who come to the building during Sunday morning worship, Door A will be the only unlocked external door during the worship service.

PEEK AT THE WEEK:

- SUNDAY 5/10: MOTHER’S DAY
Adult Study – 9:00 AM
Worship in Person & Online – 10:30 AM
Fellowship Hosts: Men of Session
- MONDAY 5/11: GA – 6:30 PM
AI-Anon – 7:00 PM
- TUESDAY 5/12: Mission – 6:00 PM
Stewardship/Finance – 6:30 PM
Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (Sanctuary)
AA – 7:30 PM
- WEDNESDAY 5/13: Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (Sanctuary)
“Bring Your Own Bible” Bible Study 7-8 PM (Zoom)
GA – 7:00 PM
- SATURDAY 5/16: Sharon’s Table Meal Prep
AA – 6:30 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **TAKE A “WALK OF FAITH” NEXT SUNDAY** The ministry of Faith Development is sponsoring a “Walk of Faith” on Sunday, May 17th, following worship. Join us for fellowship time where you can grab some “hiking food,” and then we’ll head outside for a leisurely, reflective walk together. We’ll start at our church building, walk around and through Main Square Park, and return to the church. Along the way there will be opportunities to reflect and meditate on the messages and meanings of the Resurrection for each of us, while engaging in a healthy activity for our bodies in God’s creation. Bring comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. If there is inclement weather, we will have a resource sheet for you to do your own Walk of Faith at a time and location that works for you. If you have any questions, contact Heather Casiano.
- **MINISTRY OF MISSION’S 2026 FLOWER VOUCHER SALE** The Ministry of Mission’s Annual Zandstra Flower Voucher Fundraiser is here! The vouchers are \$17.00 each, and as you know they are worth \$17.00 at Zandstra’s Greenhouse. Vouchers will be available to purchase in Fellowship Hall each Sunday after church, and you can also reach out to Tracy Oprea @ (219) 616-7181 to purchase the same. Tracy will deliver them to you at no extra charge. Mission greatly appreciates your support. Spring Blessings to All.
- **PENTECOST SUNDAY IS MAY 24TH!** Plan to wear RED that Sunday as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit together!
- **“THE BIBLE IN TODAY’S WORLD”** Bible study group meets on Sunday mornings in the middle classroom (across from Pastor Tyler’s office), from 9-10 am. Our new study looks at “Do Not Fear” in Scripture and in our lives. The last class for this spring will be on May 17. If you have any questions, contact Heather Casiano.
- **“BYOB”** (Bring Your Own Bible) Scripture discussions are weekly on Wednesdays from 7-8 pm on Zoom. The Zoom link is emailed out weekly on Wednesday mornings. The last BYOB session for this spring will be on May 20. If you are not receiving this email and would like to, contact Heather Casiano, or Kristen in the church office.
- **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!** If you don’t already follow us on Facebook and Instagram, please start doing so @firstpchighland on both Facebook and Instagram.
- **INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF FPCH?** You are always welcome here, whether a member or not! If you are interested in joining as a member, though, we would love to have you! Please talk to Pastor Tyler if you would like to learn more.

Opportunities to serve as the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ:

- **BLESSING BOX** Please continue to place items in the Blessing Box and take items if you are a person in need! Items most commonly donated: Canned goods with pull tabs, socks, toilet paper, non-perishable foods, small snacks, toiletries, baby wipes and diapers. Please check expiration dates!
- **HELP STOCK OUR PANTRY!** Please pick up a beautifully decorated grocery bag in the narthex and fill it to help the church's food pantry.

Prayer List

Anthony	Flora R.
Brady Vanes	Tyler Gall
George Griner	Phil
Guy Hendricks	Luana Sulkowski
Bill and Anettia Holmes	Sonny Buono
David Markley	Robin
David Kingen	Eunice
Diana and Ray Mendoza	Betsy
Janet Orem	David
Cindy Waltz and Sister	Joe & Kathy
Yvonne Suroviak	Breanne Polan
Georgette and Garry Sknerski	Tammy
Jakob Holden	Alex
Denise Matthys	Ben
Jan Oprea	Mike Kelly
Florance Cody	Sue Heth
Kathy & Chuck Pumnea	Ron Toren
The Windstrups	Tony
Rick Parker	Mildred
Gary Everhart	Neal
Darlene O'Brien	Rita
Doug & Sue Matthews	Carolyn
Janet Terpstra	Oscar Ochoa
Glen Nahler	Tony and Sharon Nevers
Tom	Caroline
David Hamblin	Jean and Clara
Jana Tolley	Suzanne
Larry & Bonnie Perryman	Dave Shelborne
Delta Rose	Kali Rosalia
Winnie Owen	Nick B.
Breeanne	Carlito
Mom Bechtler	Don
Victor	Donna
Marian Clayton	Phyllis
Ella P	Diane
Rita Stroncsek	Marly
Keren, Zuriel, and Gedeon	Jeff
Edna Cruz	Linda
Charlie	Sandy
Jerry & Rena Martinez	Bill
Nicole	Debbie
Greg	Marie Smith
Mary Ellen Edeus	
Jane and David	

Deuteronomy 32:9-14

⁹ The LORD's own portion was his people,
Jacob his allotted share.

¹⁰ He sustained him in a desert land,
in a howling wilderness waste;
he shielded him, cared for him,
guarded him as the apple of his eye.

¹¹ As an eagle stirs up its nest
and hovers over its young,
as it spreads its wings, takes them up,
and bears them aloft on its pinions,

¹² the Lord alone guided him;
no foreign god was with him.

¹³ He set him atop the heights of the land
and fed him with produce of the field;
he nursed him with honey from the crags,
with oil from flinty rock,

¹⁴ curds from the herd, and milk from the flock,
with fat of lambs and rams,
Bashan bulls and goats,
together with the choicest wheat—
you drank fine wine from the blood of grapes.

1 Peter 3:13-18

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

Acts 1:6-14

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. 13 When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Feeling It All

Deuteronomy 32:9 -14; 1 Peter 3:13-18; Acts 1:6-14

Jesus Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!** Hallelujah! **Hallelujah!**

Happy Mothers’ Day! To all of you moms, stepmoms, foster moms, godmoms, pet moms, church moms, grandmas, aunties, older sisters, religious sisters, teachers, pastors, mentors, and so many more who have raised us, thank you for all that you have done. Thank you for all that you continue to do. Thank you for all that you will do. Too often you are underappreciated or unappreciated entirely. Too often you are taken for granted. Too often you are disrespected and dishonored. Sadly, that has especially been the case in the Church throughout much of history and even throughout many traditions today. Not in this church! Not today and not ever again! We appreciate you. We respect you. We honor you. We love you. We understand that the Kingdom has been built through the labors of women. We understand that the majority of the Church, and thus those who keep the Church alive and thriving, are the women. And so we understand that the Body of Christ as it exists in the world today is a woman’s body.

And the first body of Christ, of course, came from a woman. It is only fitting that we spend time with Mary, the mother of Jesus, on Mother’s Day! We celebrate her well every year when Advent and Christmas roll around, but we do not nearly give her the time that she deserves. After all, she was there for the entirety of Jesus’ life! Sometimes we imagine what it must have been like for her to raise him and prepare him for those three years of his adulthood that we read about in the scriptures, and I encourage us to do that imagining every time we spend time with adolescents and young adults. It is important for us to remember that Jesus went throughout those particularly challenging life stages. It is important for us to remember that Mary parented him through those particularly challenging life stages. It might allow us more grace for people today going through those challenging life stages and for parents parenting through those challenging life stages!

Today, though, I want us to meet Mary at the end of her son’s life and at the beginning of her son’s new life. When last we met her, she was there by the cross. If you joined us for our Maundy Thursday service, you may recall that one of the last things Jesus said on the cross was an acknowledgement of his mama and a radical statement on family bound by spirit rather than blood. I know we are in the season of the Resurrection, and it may feel sad to go back to that moment on the cross. But it is supremely significant, and we will make our way back to new life. Before new life, there must be death. So let us return to *John*, chapter 19, verses 23-27:

²³ *When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.*

²⁴ *“Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.”*

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

*“They divided my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.”*

So this is what the soldiers did.

²⁵ *Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” ²⁷ and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.*

Throughout Eastertide, we have been getting into our bodies in order to experience the fullness of the gospel in the fullness of our senses. At this moment, I invite us to imagine what Mary would have been experiencing while standing there next to the cross, seeing her son and hearing her son. I am not a mother, but I am certain that the mothers in our midst know just how overwhelming that must have been for her. And I know that there are mothers in our midst who have been through that most agonizing of experiences, the loss of a child. I want to pause here and honor your grief and lift up your healing on this Mother’s Day, when such a loss is most acute. I am sure that Mary was feeling it all—in her body, in her mind, in her heart, in her spirit.

And her beloved son looked upon her and said, “Here is your son.” Now, usually when I read this, I interpret as him telling Mary to behold the disciple whom he loved and giving her the gift of having a new son in him. That makes sense, since he then tells the disciple to behold his mother. Reading it this time around, though, I wonder if he is calling out to his mama and honoring who she is to him and who he is to her, saying: “Here I am, your son!” and then also telling his beloved disciple to take on that mantle and so to continue loving her and caring for her as he would have done so himself. In that sense, it is a both/and moment—claiming his most essential identity as her son, honoring her as his mother, and doing the only thing that he could do in that moment to ensure that his mother and beloved disciple would be able to go on after his death, by caring for each other. It is heart-rending. It is beautiful. And again, Mary was surely feeling it all. I know I asked us to imagine it, but I cannot even begin to imagine all that she felt in that moment and then in the moments that followed and then in the days that followed.

But I promised that we would not dwell on death for too long! As we just proclaimed, Jesus Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!** Hallelujah! **Hallelujah!** Over the past several weeks, we have touched, seen, heard, smelled, and tasted this truth as he appeared to his disciples in the garden, in the Upper Room, in the streets, in a house in Emmaus, and on a beach beside the Sea of Galilee. Throughout all of this, the scriptures do not say a single word about Mary his mother. But there is a lot that the scriptures do not tell us. We get these fleeting moments, and we get the detail that Jesus disappears to go elsewhere. There is not a doubt in my mind that he spent a significant amount of that time visiting her. How could he not?! Of all the people for him to visit in the Resurrection she would have been the most important. After having been there through it all, all the way up to the cross, after having felt the fullness of his death and then the fullness of her own grief, she would have needed to feel the fullness of his new life more than anyone.

The gospel of *John* closes by saying, “Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.” I cannot help but believe that one of those things was spending time with his mama, and I do not think the whole world could contain the books necessary to describe all that she would have felt upon meeting her son again after his death! I mean, what would any mother feel?! The joy would be indescribable! The love would be uncontainable! Now let us take a moment to imagine what that encounter would have been like, to imagine all that Mary would have felt! Even to imagine it is heartachingly, breathtakingly beautiful! Imagine the meals that they would have shared! Imagine the conversations that they would have had! Imagine what it would have been like for them to simply bask in each other’s presence! Imagine how Jesus would have honored his mother then!

Part of it must have been the two of them planning and preparing for what would happen next. After all, Mary was always part of the planning, preparing, and embodying of her son's mission to save the world through love. Remember, she was prophesying it even when she was pregnant with him—the performance of mighty deeds, the scattering of the proud, the bringing down of rulers, the lifting up of the humble, the feeding of the hungry, the flattening of hierarchies based on wealth, the enactment of mercy! She instilled that in him from the beginning, and she guided him into it when he began his public ministry, even gently pushing him to perform his first deed of power with the turning of the water into wine. Yes, I am sure that they planned and prepared in the time of the Resurrection, getting read for the movement to carry on, for the Body of Christ to keep going even after her son, Jesus Christ would no longer be with them in the body.

Next week we will hear more about the Ascension, when Jesus Christ in his resurrected body went up into heaven and then sent the Helper, the Holy Spirit upon the disciples to continue expanding the kin-dom of Love. Today, I want us to go just past the Ascension, to the very last thing our scriptures have to say about Jesus' mama. The book of *Acts* tells the story of the Ascension and then names the disciples who were there for it and who returned to Jerusalem, back to the Upper Room to be exact. Several of the men are mentioned, and one woman is mentioned: Mary, the mother of Jesus. There, in the Upper Room, they constantly devoted themselves to prayer. Wow! Mary was there! I read that to mean that she was there for the Ascension and that she was there for the kin-dom building movement that was to follow.

Again, let us imagine all that she would have felt—witnessing her newly returned son ascending to heaven to be with his fathers—God and Joseph. Imagine what she treasured in her heart then! Imagine the grief again. Imagine the joy! Imagine the passion that she would have had to ensure that his life and legacy would have persisted. Imagine how she would have persisted! She would have had the blessed assurance that all would be well, and all would be well, and all manner of thing would be well. And she still had mothering to do! After all, that passage in *Acts* mentions that she was there with her other children, with Jesus' brothers. And now, of course, that would have included that beloved disciple whom Jesus had had her adopt while he was on the cross. She had children by blood. She had children by spirit. In truth, in some way, we all also get to claim Mary as one of our mothers as well. After all, we were all adopted into Jesus' family, as Paul would later teach us in his writings.

Oh, Mary! She felt it all, from the moment he was conceived to the moment he ascended, and everything between and everything beyond. Today, on Mother's Day, let us consider how we can honor her legacy. Let us consider how we can continue her work, which, after all, was also the work of her son. Let us speak up with her prophetic voice for justice. Let us serve the most vulnerable with the tenderness of her care. Let us protect all of God's children with the fierceness of her strength. Let us grieve alongside other mothers who have lost children to violence. Let us strive for a world in which no mothers lose their children to violence. Let us dare to feel all that she felt. Let us dare to love in the ways that she loved. We can do it! I am certain that for many of us, we do not have to look far for examples in our own lives, for our own mothers have done it so well. Thanks be to God! Amen.

In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) (Em)
F Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) (D)
C7 F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

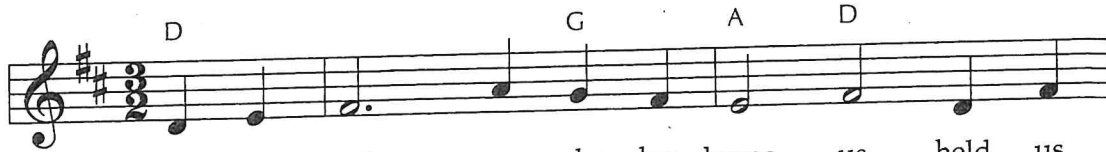
(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)
F7 Bb Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

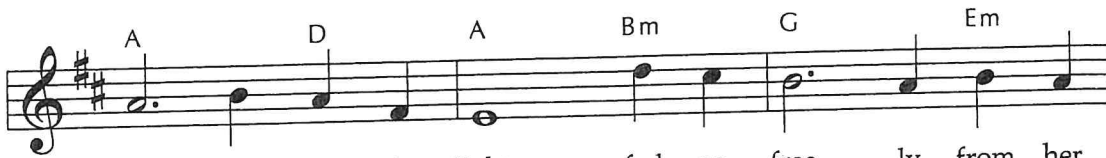
(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
Bb Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

44 Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us



1 Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us
2 Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our
3 Though as chil - dren we have wan - dered, placed our
4 When we of - fer food and com - fort, grasp our



close in her de - light, fed us free - ly from her
hand and been our guide, lift - ed us and healed our
trust in power and might, left be - hind our broth - ers,
neigh - bor's hand in love, tread the path of peace and



bod - y, God has called us in - to life.
sor - rows, God has walked with us in life.
sis - ters, God still calls us in - to life.
jus - tice, God still walks with us in life.