WEBSTER GROVES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021
9:30 a.m.

OUR MISSION
We seek to live Christ’s love,
welcome all people and joyfully serve God.
Service for the Lord’s Day

As the music begins, let us use this time for quiet reflection and prayer, so that we, individually and as a great crowd of witnesses, may prepare ourselves to reaffirm our faith as the people of God.

~GATHERING FOR GOD’S WORD~

PRELUDE
“Chant de Paix (Song of Peace)”
Jean Langlais
Shawn Portell, organ

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP
Dennis Wacker, Liturgist

Beloved, let us love one another.

We love because God first loved us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God,
form the minds of your faithful people into a single will.
Make us love what you command
and desire what you promise,
that, amid all the changes of this world,
our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #246
“Christ is Alive”
TRURO
(music at the end of the bulletin)

CALL TO CONFESSION

We come before God not as despised sinners,
but as beloved children.

With the confidence of children of God,
let us humbly confess our sin.
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us
a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace
to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our righteousness is found in Christ alone,
a gift of God by faith.

Beloved people of God, believe the good news:
through the grace of Jesus Christ
we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

RESPONSE TO GOD’s GRACE #435 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

(IN BABILONE)

(music at the end of the bulletin)
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak to us, living God,
as you have spoken to our ancestors:
through the voices of your prophets,
the breath of your Spirit,
and the life of your Son,
so that we may live according to your word:
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING
1 John 4:7-21

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. 15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Those who say, ‘I love God’, and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.
SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

~RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD~

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Let us join with all creation in praying for the good of the earth, saying,
God who makes us one, hear our prayer.

O God, we give you thanks for your Holy Spirit
whose work at creation continues in us.
Through Christ Jesus you have shown your love for this earth you made.
We pray that all the world may know your power and goodness;
God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.

Word of life, reveal the wonder of your world to all people.
Show us anew what lives around us, over us, beneath us, within us.
Enliven the church with your Spirit,
that we may honor your earth with responsible care.
God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, uphold our sisters and brothers
who endure disasters
caused by weather, war, famine, sickness, or greed.
Strengthen all who are in peril,
especially the people of (name places of concern).
You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.
God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.

Giver of all good things, bring trust and sympathy
to the nations of the world.
Let peacemakers reign wherever there is conflict.
Give wisdom to leaders and hope to the poor.
God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.
Good healer, we pray for all who are in need of comfort.
Comfort those who mourn;
uphold those who are sick, or holding vigil,
or awaiting words of hope,
especially those we name now silently or aloud (silence).
God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.

Trusting in your mercy, we commend to you all those we have named
and those whose needs are known only to you,
in the name of your Son, Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION
Remember the words of the Lord Jesus:
It is more blessed to give than to receive.

OFFERTORY
“Set Me as a Seal Upon Your Heart”
John Leavitt
Chancel Choir
Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death.
Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it.
Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Through our offerings, O God,
give your loving Spirit to a world in need of comfort.
Make our many gifts one offering for the world;
in the name of Jesus. Amen.
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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #300 "We Are One in the Spirit" WE ARE ONE
(music at the end of the bulletin)

CHARGE

Live a life worthy of your calling,
giving glory to God in all things.

Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

The blessing of the holy, triune God—
who was and is and is to come—
first and last,
beginning and end,
Alpha and Omega—
be with you now and always.

Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE "Toccata in Seven" John Rutter
Shawn Portell, organ

As you rest in the postlude, our final offering to God, you are invited to use this time to reflect on how you have met God here today, and how you will bring God’s love into the world that awaits.
Worship Notes

Some prayers and liturgical texts for worship are provided by:
Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1 © 2012*
Westminster John Knox Press from the PCUSA *Book of Common Worship © 2018*

Those Who Serve Today

**Ushers:** Donna Bellows, Becky Clausen, Betsy Wacker, Bob Weng, Judy Weng
**Liturgist:** Dennis Wacker
**Camera Operators:** Allison Byrne, Josh Zumwinkel

Online Worship

In order to reach beyond the walls of WGPC and into the homes of those who are unable to worship with us in person, each of our worship services is live-streamed and video recorded for viewing on our website, *wgpc.org*, Facebook and YouTube pages. Children’s participation in the Scripture Conversation indicates implied parental consent to be recorded.

Ministry Staff

Pastor: Rev. Edwin Zumwinkel III  
Associate Pastor: Rev. Hannah Zyla  
Theologian in Residence: Rev. Dr. Susan Andrews  
Pastoral Assistant for Congregational Care: John Rawlings  
Director of Music Ministries/Organist: Shawn Portell  
Interim Director of Youth and Family Services: Rev. Pat Cleeland  
Mission Outreach Coordinator: Beth Kazlaukas  
Connections Coordinator: Tracey Rapisardo  
Business Administrator: Jan Scheurer  
Assistant Business Administrator: Joyce Kimmons  
Senior Staff Assistant: open  
Educational Ministries Asst, Digital Communications Specialist: Cherstín Byers  
Custodians: Pete Brennan (Supervisor), Pierre Campbell, Ken Kastner  

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Christ Is Alive!

1 Christ is a-live! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
2 Christ is a-live! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time. loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.
3 In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide, Christ suffers still, yet life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
4 Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the spirit, hear the call, and find the way, the ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.
5 Christ is a-live, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1993
MUSIC: Musica Sacra, c. 1778
Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company
435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness
of the sea. There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty. There is no place where earth's
sorrows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

2 For the love of God is broader than the measures
of the mind. And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind. If our love were but more
faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word, and our lives re-

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

TEXT: Frederick William Faber, 1854, alt.
MUSIC: Dutch melody; arr. Julius Röntgen, c. 1906

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D
We Are One in the Spirit

They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em)
Fm Cm Fm

1 We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
2 We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
3 We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
4 All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Bm) (Em)
Fm

we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God’s only Son,

(Am) (Bm) (Em)
Fm

and we pray that all unity may one day be restored;
and together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land;
and we’ll guard human dignity and save human pride;
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:

Refrain
(C) (Em)
Db Fm

And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
Bm Fm Bm Cm Fm Bm/F Fm

love; yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan’s on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, intercultural events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

TEXT and MUSIC: Peter Scholles, 1966

THEY’LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS


7.6.7.6.8.8 with refrain
May 2, 2021 Announcements

Adult Education Hour
Sunday, May 2nd, 10:45am - Fellowship Hall or Zoom

Hope for our future. Modeling an institutional approach to achieving diversity, equity and inclusion, "Voices Lifted - Two Centuries of Black Composers of Opera" – presents a selection of Black composers from Joseph de Boulogne to William Grant Still to Terence Blanchard. This presentation discusses the work and agency taken by these composers in the face of barriers of racist Jim Crow laws and prejudice. The presentation explores the musical forces that place these composers squarely at the heart of the development of an "American" sound in many genres of American music - folk, pop, jazz, and classical. And finally, learn how Opera Theatre of St. Louis has developed several exciting new programs to achieve real diversity, equity, and inclusion as an institution and serve as a model for positive results. Presenter, Diane McCullough, is an Elder at WGPC, a retired music teacher, and opera singer. She has been a cooperating teacher with Opera Theatre and has been an OTSL Guild docent since retirement. See the Friday Flash for the Zoom link.

Registration for Worship Services No Longer Needed

The Session is pleased to announce that we will no longer require those attending worship to register in advance! Please join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 when you are ready. We will still practice social distancing, wear masks, and refrain from singing.

Chancel Flowers

Would you like to provide Chancel flowers for a Sunday service? It's easy! One phone call to your favorite florist is all it takes! Contact Gay Moppert for more information: 314-324-5313 or mopfam@aol.com. The flowers beautify our service, then are deconstructed and delivered to our members in hospitals, nursing homes, etc. to brighten their day. Win-win!!

Congregational Art Project
Friday, May 7th and Thursday, May 13th, 10:00am-noon in the Church Kitchen

You are invited to come and help make "Tongues of Fire" flames that will be used for our Pentecost service on May 23rd. We will be learning about and working with thermoplastic material, IDye Poly dyes and heat guns! Please RSVP to Shawn Portell, spp@wgpc.org if you plan to attend a session.

New Church Office Hours
Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-3:00pm

If you need to be in touch with a staff person for any reason, please note the new church office hours are Monday-Thursday from 9:00am-3:00pm. It's always a good idea to call ahead to the person you need to speak with to be sure they will be available. For urgent and emergency matters, call a pastor at any time using their cell phone number.
Help Protect Voting Rights - Volunteer Opportunity

On Saturday, May 8, St. Louis will join in the National John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Action Day. The purpose of this event is to support S1 - the For the People Act and HR4 - the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. A strong democracy depends on the guarantee that all Americans deserve and have the right to cast their vote.

The event is planned for people living in North St. Louis in the Ville and surrounding neighborhoods. A 'Voter'cade will start off the day, followed by a Celebration/Information 'Village' where the neighborhood participants will have a chance to do hands-on work to support S1 and HR4 as well as get information about their own voting.

The coordinators of this day have asked for assistance in getting everything ready for May 8. The Advocacy team will be providing PPE in the form of individually wrapped sanitizing wipes. The coordinators have also asked for help stuffing info/giveaway bags to distribute to the neighborhood participants. Bag stuffing will take place at various days and times next week at the St. Louis Voter Protection Coalition office at 2200 South 12th.

Find a friend and get involved as we work to protect the vote and access to the ballot. Visit wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links to volunteer through Sign-up Genius. Contact Julie Burchett at burchett.juliekay@gmail.com with any questions.

New Mulching Date - Volunteers Needed

**Saturday, May 8th, 9:00am-noon**

Due to rain, mulching has been postponed until May 8th. Volunteers are needed to help spread mulch on the church's flower beds. Join us from 9:00am-noon. Any questions? Contact Amy Castagno at 314-591-8601

Adult Education Hour - Taking Creation Seriously

**Sundays, May 9th, 16th and 23rd, 10:45am - Fellowship Hall or Zoom**

In this three week series we will explore what the Bible really says about God's creation--and it's not just one thing. We will also examine how faithful believers have struggled to find meaning in creation over the years. Finally, we will reflect on what creation might mean for us right now, in this time and place.

See the Friday Flash for the Zoom link.

Social Justice Film Club

**Wednesday, May 12th, 7:00pm on Zoom**

Watch this month's Social Justice film, *John Lewis: Good Trouble* then join us for discussion on May 12th from 7:00-8:00pm on Zoom. The film is available on Amazon Prime.

See the Friday Flash for the Zoom link.
Let’s Be Happy Party!
**Sunday, May 23rd, 4:00-6:00pm - Church Parking Lot**
The Gathering Task Force invites you, your family and friends for a fun afternoon of fellowship!

   - Live Music by Tracey Rapisardo and The Big River Trio
   - Family Games and Special Beverages
   - Bring your lawn chairs (extra chairs will be available), family and friends

It will be helpful to have your RSVP and fun song request. Visit [wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links](http://wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links)

*Masks are required and social distancing guidelines will be followed. The parking lot will be closed to cars; parking will be available in the Moody lot and bank parking lots.*

**WGPC Youth Update**

**Confirmation**
Mark your calendars to come to worship and welcome our 8th graders into the WGPC faith community as members when they are confirmed on May 16th.

**Agape Mission Trip - Registration closes this Sunday, May 2nd!**
The high school youth group and college freshmen will be taking a "Summer Mission Immersion" mission trip to Memphis, TN, June 6-11. The theme is Charity vs. Justice. We will explore the issues of racism, poverty and prejudice from a Christian faith perspective. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we will adventure to various missions throughout Memphis to learn about the variety of perspectives surrounding these topics. Highlights will include the Civil Rights Museum and no doubt some delicious Memphis BBQ! Registration for the trip will close on May 2nd. Check with Pat Cleeland, pdc@wgpc.org or Pastor Ed, efz@wgpc.org if you have any questions. The cost is $450.00 and scholarships are available.

**Freestyle Pool Pass Donations**
Webster Groves is a great place to live, work, and play--and our community is striving to be consciously inclusive. To this end, the Alliance for Interracial Dignity, Webster Groves School District, and Webster Rock Hill Ministries have joined forces to create the new Freestyle Pool Pass. The Freestyle Pass will remove barriers to the community swimming pool by providing free daily swim passes for individuals and families that require financial assistance.

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church is supporting this initiative with a gift of $1,000, funded through the Mission Endowment Fund and the Gibbs Fund to Promote Racial Harmony and Justice. If you would like to contribute individually, you can do so this week by check made payable to Webster Rock Hill Ministries and mailed or brought to 111 East Waymire, Webster Groves, 63119. Checks must include “Freestyle Pass Fund” in the memo line. You may also donate online, see the link on [wgpc.org/get-involved](http://wgpc.org/get-involved).

Questions? Message freestyleswimpass@gmail.com.