



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



6624 Public Sq., Independence, OH; (216) 524-6307; office@ipcusa.org

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2, 2021



Ethiopian Orthodox Choir, Painting on stretched leather. Photo by Jahsensie.

C.J. Briggs, Music Director
Julie Lehmann, Secretary

Carol Tomasko, Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

“Our true identity as men and women made in the image of God, is not to be understood primarily in terms of racial, cultural, national, or lineage categories, but in terms of Jesus Christ.”

~Kwame Bediako

~ GATHERING ~

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beloved, let us love one another. **We love because God first loves us.**

PRELUDE

PRELUDE IN E \flat MAJOR (BMV 852)

J.S. BACH

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Based on Psalm 22:25-31*)

From God comes our praise in the great congregation.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek shall praise the Lord.

**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before God.**

For dominion belongs to the Lord, and God rules over the nations.

**Future generations shall be told of the Lord,
and will proclaim God's deliverance to all people.**

Come, let us worship God.

HYMN

IN THE PRESENCE OF YOUR PEOPLE

GTG #631

by Brent Sinclair Chambers and Bert Polman

CELEBRATION

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WHOEVER YOU ARE

MEM FOX

Children may be dismissed to Sunday School.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you are the Good Shepherd who attends to our needs, but we fail to see your abundant life in our midst. We see only scarcity.

Our culture has engraved upon us the message that we are "not enough" – not beautiful enough, not smart enough, not rich enough.

Help us to see that we are your beloved children, created in your image. And help us to live out of your goodness. Amen.

RESPONSE

BE NOT AFRAID

GTG #243

Taizé Community and Jacques Berthier

BE NOT AFRAID

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe this good news: **God's mercy is sure; God's goodness will fill our lives and empower us to love God and love neighbor as ourselves. Thanks be to God.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

ALLELUIA

HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH!

GTG #591

Caribbean melody; arr. by John L. Bell

HALLE HALLE

MINUTE FOR MISSION

HIS DISCIPLES COOKING MINISTRY

cookingministry.org

~ THE WORD ~

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

JOHN 10:11-18

(NRSV)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22

IN THE PRESENCE OF YOUR PEOPLE

(Reprise)

SECOND READING

ACTS 8:26-40

(NRSV)

SERMON

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Rev. Wigger

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Confession of Belhar*)

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another.

~ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ~

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

RESPONSE

DOXOLOGY

GTG #606

Words by Thomas Ken

OLD HUNDREDTH

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your 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.

...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.

COMMUNION HYMN

LAMB OF GOD

GTG #518

by Twila Paris

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- SENDING -

HYMN

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

GTG #480

African American Spiritual

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ETHIOPIA RAG

JOSEPH F. LAMB

Coffee and tea are available in the gathering room. You are invited to grab a cup and head to the courtyard for (socially-distanced) fellowship.

Pieces of today's liturgy are from: the *Book of Common Worship*, PC(USA); and the *Presbyterian Outlook*, John Wurster. GTG = "Glory to God" Hymnal