



**commit your work to the LORD and  
your plans will be established** Proverbs 16:3

# **INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



6624 Public Sq - office@ipcusa.org - (216) 524-6307 - ipcusa.org

## **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

May 7, 2023



C.J. Briggs, Music Director

Julie Lehmann, Church Secretary

Bob Scott, Liturgist

Rev. Luke Choi, Guest Pastor

*For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the LORD.*

~ Isaiah 54:10

~ **GATHERING** ~

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** *(from Luke 24:34)*

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

**PRELUDE**



**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from John 14)*

Gather us, O God

**There is room for us all.**

Dwell with us, O God.

**Show us the way.**

Guide us, O God.

**We give thanks and praise for Christ as our way, truth and life.**

Come, let us worship God.

**\*HYMN**

CALLED AS PARTNERS IN CHRIST'S SERVICE

GTG #761

by Jane Parker Huber

BEECHER

**POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS**

**LITANY FOR SENDING**

One: Let us send our kids with God's love.

**All: May God be with you there.**

Kids: May God be with you here.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Christ, our way, our truth, our life, you have shown us the way, so clearly and fully. You have not simply told us how to live, you have shown us. But we still don't get it. We do not believe all you have said to us; we do not trust the way you have shown us. Help us, O God. Forgive us. Open our ears to your truth, open our eyes to your way, and lead us into new life. Amen. *[Silent Confession]***

**\*RESPONSE**

BE NOT AFRAID

GTG #243

Taizé Community and Jacques Berthier

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

We are God's own people.  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**



**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

**ALLELUIA**

**HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH!**  
Caribbean melody; arr. by John L. Bell (Refrain)

GTG #591

**~ THE WORD ~**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**HEBREW BIBLE**

ISAIAH 54:10

(NRSV)

**GOSPEL READING**

JOHN 15:12-17

(NRSV)

This is the good news we have received,  
in which we stand, and by which we are saved. **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

I AM A FRIEND OF JESUS

Rev. Luke Choi

**~ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ~**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*adapted from the Confession of 1967*)

**Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is God's sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.**

**Now to the one who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

**\*INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**\*RESPONSE**

DOXOLOGY

GTG #606

OLD HUNDREDTH

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**



## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS  
American Folk Hymn

GTG #215

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## SANCTUS

...Therefore, we praise you, joining the song of all creation:  
**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.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

~ *SENDING* ~

\*HYMN

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS  
by Thomas O. Chisholm

GTG #39  
FAITHFULNESS

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE



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Pieces of today's liturgy are from: *Book of Common Worship* (PCUSA); *Connections*, David Gambrell, ed.; *Call to Worship, Lectionary Aids*; *Presbyterian Outlook*, Teri Ott.

Cover Image: *Wooden Love Sign*, Doi Inthanon National Park