

Nurture Good News

"For all of you share in God's grace." (Philippians 1:7)



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN

THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 4, 2025



Nada Montgomery, Guest Pianist
Nicolette Cindric, Church Secretary

Carol Tomasko Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

*As followers of Christ, we have moments in which we do not catch any fish in our lives.
The voice of God invites us to move to a new place, throw down our nets, and trust God
will provide us with a bountiful and fulfilling calling. ~ Dong Hyeon Jeong*

~ *GATHERING TOGETHER* ~

PRELUDE

SIMPLE GIFTS

arr. Cindy Berry

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (*John 21; Philippians 1*)

Jesus said to them, “Come and eat”

Let us all share in God’s grace.

*GATHERING

CALLED AS PARTNERS

GTG #761

by Jane Parker Huber (NETTLETON)

Verse 1

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*based on Psalm 30 from TOGETHER WE PRAY*)

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

O LORD our God, we will give thanks to you forever.

You heal our wounded hearts and give us life.

You hear our cries and raise us from the dust

O LORD our God, we will give thanks to you forever.

You take away our grief and give us joy

You turn mourning into dancing, ashes into stars, silence into praise.

O LORD our God, we will give thanks to you forever.

We will give thanks to you forever. **Come, let us worship God.**

*HYMN

I DANCED IN THE MORNING

GTG #157

by Sydney Carter

LORD OF THE DANCE

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord our God, we know that your throne is surrounded by the voices of many angels and that you are worshiped by the multitudes of the heavenly host, but we so often fail to join in their “amen.” We do not fall down and worship you as we know we should. We are distracted by our catch, by our high priests, by our mourning, and our doubts. Show yourself to us anew and give us the faith to cast our nets in other waters. Strengthen us to worship you alone as the one on the throne even when we are in the depths of the pit. Amen. [*Silent Confession*]

***RESPONSE**

LORD, HAVE MERCY
American folk melody

GTG #551
LAND OF REST

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(based on Psalm 30)*

Believe the Good News: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

SPREAD THE WORD

OUTREACH TEAM

~ ***SHARING IN THE GOSPEL*** ~

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

ACTS 9:1-6

Pew Bible p.119(NT)

GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 21:1-19

Pew Bible p.109(NT)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.

For all of us share in God's grace.

SERMON

~ ***TENDING THE GOOD NEWS*** ~

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from A Brief Statement of Faith)*

We trust in Jesus Christ, who proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

ALLELUIA

HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH!
Caribbean melody; arr. by John L. Bell

GTG #591
(Refrain)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

HYMN LOAVES WERE BROKEN, WORDS WERE SPOKEN GTG #498
by Herman G. Stuempfle Jr. BEACH SPRING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

...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.

COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

~ ***GOING FORTH TO NURTURE*** ~

***HYMN** I'M GONNA LIVE SO GOD CAN USE ME GTG #700
African American spiritual

***BENEDICTION** (*from Philippians 1:7, 9, MSG*)

So this is my prayer: **that our love may flourish more and more.**

POSTLUDE I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD
music from Gesangbuch der Herzogl