



# Forest Lake Presbyterian Church

Head, Heart, and Hands in the Service of Christ

MAY 9, 2021 | FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

WELCOME

Ed Black

PRELUDE

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”  
Robert Hobby

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ed Black

Praise the Lord!

**The Lord’s name be praised!**

\*HYMN NO. 366

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

verses 1 & 2

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, Jesus has told us that our lives are made whole by loving you and loving our neighbors. We confess that love is hard for us. We are too selfish, too pessimistic, too hollow, too hardened, or just too tired to give ourselves to love’s demands. So we make excuses, take shortcuts, and seek our own pleasure. Now we find ourselves far away from abundant life.**

**Help us make our way back to you. Forgive our sins and direct our hearts that we may find the strength to meet love’s demands and the grace to receive love’s gifts. We pray in the name of Jesus, whose love has no boundary. Amen.**

*The church year is divided into liturgical seasons. Easter begins the most important liturgical season of the Christian year, and the color that is evident in our paraments and banners is white. White is reserved for the most important celebrations in the Church’s life and reminds us of joy, light, glory and holiness.*

*An assurance of pardon is one way of claiming God's promised forgiveness and grace. We believe that when we repent of our sin and ask God to forgive us that God does in fact forgive us. We don't need a preacher or priest to ask on our behalf. God deals with us directly as believers who seek to love and to follow.*

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **\*HYMN NO. 606 DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## **TO HEAR GOD'S WORD**

### **A TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES**

Ed Black

*(Children through 1st Grade depart to Room #E-107)*

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **READING OF THE WORD**

Gospel Reading: John 15:9-17

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

### **SERMON**

"God's Friends"

Dr. Ellen Skidmore

## **TO RESPOND IN FAITH**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Ed Black

*The Lord's Prayer is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples when they asked him to teach them to pray. (Luke 11:1-4)*

**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.**

## OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

### OFFERTORY

Sonatine, M.40 Mvt II Mouvement de Menuet”  
Ravel  
*Julian Lewis, piano*

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*A Declaration of Faith* Chapter 1; The Living God – ll. 1-19, 34-43

**We believe in one true and living God. We acknowledge one God alone, whose demands on us are absolute, whose help for us is sufficient. That One is the Lord, whom we worship, serve and love. God is greater than our understanding. We do not fully comprehend who God is or how he works. God’s reality far exceeds all our words can say. The Lord’s requirements are not always what we think is best. The Lord’s care for us is not always what we want. God comes to us on his own terms and is able to do far more than we ask or think. God makes himself known in Jesus Christ. Jesus’ involvement in the human condition is God’s involvement. His compassion for all kinds of people is God’s compassion. His demand for justice, truth, and faithfulness is God’s demand. His willingness to suffer rejection is God’s willingness. Jesus’ love for the very people who reject him is God’s love.**

**God is at work beyond our story. We know that God is not confined to the story we can tell. The story itself tells us God works his sovereign will among all people of the earth. We believe God works beyond our imagining throughout the universe. We acknowledge no other God. We must not set our ultimate reliance on any other help. We must not yield unconditional obedience to any other power. We must not love anyone or anything more than we love God.**

**\*HYMN NO. 833**      “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”      verses 1 & 3

O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Joy that sleekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.

### \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

### \*POSTLUDE

“Toccata in Seven”  
Rutter

#### *Sanctuary Flowers*

*Gifts have been given to the Glory of God  
and in honor of Sara Thompson and Ed Black,  
on the occasion of their birthdays,  
by Edith and Dan Black*

*We give to God out of gratitude. And the work of this church depends on your gifts. Offerings may be made online in a variety of ways - <https://flpc.org/giving/> - or gifts may be left in the offering plates located in the Narthex and Connecting Point Lobby. Requests for prayers may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*A Declaration of Faith was adopted by the Presbyterian Church in the United States (a precursor to our current denomination) in 1977 as a “contemporary statement of faith, a reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy and inspiration . . .” It includes much that speaks directly to our current context and is useful for study and worship.*

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*Dr. J. Eric Skidmore, Parish Associate for Stewardship*  
*Ed Black, Ministry Associate for Pastoral Care*  
*Dr. Elizabeth M. Mears, Director of Music*  
*Sylvia Trimmier, Organist*  
*Jodi Beckham, Dir of Mission and Community Engagement*  
*Bill Wannamaker, Youth Director*