

*Hymn #300 **“We Are One in the Spirit”** THEY’LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS
(They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love)

*Benediction

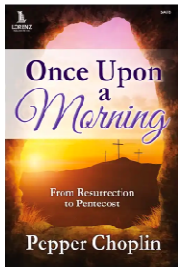
*Choral Benediction “Amen” Curt Oliver

*Postlude

The beautiful flowers in the sanctuary today are given by Dr. Dan and Tanya Robinson in loving memory of Lewellyn Robinson, Jean Hawkins, Louise Brinson, and Judith Robinson.

*There will be no Monday night or Wednesday morning Bible Study this week.

*The session will meet on Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 304. If you have any business or concerns for the session to consider, please speak to one of the elders or the minister.



The WPCChancel Choir
presents
Pepper Choplin’s
“Once Upon a Morning”
during worship
on Sunday, May 21.



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY
Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023

11:00 A.M.

GATHERING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude **“They’ll Know We Are Christians”** arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Call to Worship **“You Are Holy”** Per Harling

*You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more
Than we ever understand. You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near? Blessed are you coming here
To your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.
You are holy, you are wholeness; You are present.
Let the cosmos praise you, Lord! Sing hosanna in the highest!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!*

Opening Sentences Elder Sandy Cobb

Leader: God is in our midst, forming us to be God’s own people.

All: Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us. We need not fear. In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Leader: Come to the Lord who will surround you with God’s own righteousness.

All: Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you.

Leader: There are times in our lives when following Christ seems almost too difficult. Our fears and doubts crowd out his call. Yet he has promised to be with us, guiding and supporting us. Lord, come to us and lead us.

All: Lord, take our hands and walk with us. Bring the brightness of your love to us. Help us see your face, O Lord, for we are ready to receive your healing love.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

*Hymn #611 **“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”** ODE TO JOY

*Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy God, on the cross you redeemed us. You sent your Spirit to dwell in us. You set us apart to be witnesses to your great love. We forget that we bear the marks of your grace and act as though you have no claim on our lives. You are forever faithful to your promises, but we have broken your law of love. We hoard your blessings, rather than seek ways to bless those in need. We choose what is comfortable and safe, rather than listen to the pain and concerns of our brothers and sisters. We sit quietly in fear, rather than speak out for justice and peace. Forgive us, Lord. Wash us again with your mercy and grace. Transform our hearts, that our lives may bear the fruit of your love and our joy may be complete. Lord, hear our prayers . . .

(A time for silent prayers of confession . . .)

*Responsive Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Our God meets us with perfect love and gives us new life. Friends, remember the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ, love abounds, and we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*Gloria Patri

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Children’s Sermon

*Hymn #450 **“Be Thou My Vision”** SLANE

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

Epistle Lesson: 1 John 4:7-21 Elder Sandy Cobb

Special Music **“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”** *arr.* Molly Ijames

Gospel Lesson: John 14:15-24

Sermon **“God’s Love Language”** Dr. Philip Gladden

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.*

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A Time for Silent Reflection

Pastoral Prayer with the Lord’s Prayer

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory **“Be Thou My Vision”** *arr.* Dan Forrest

*Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

*The Affirmation of Faith: **The Apostles’ Creed**