

Finding Your Way Home

May 7, 2023



Fifth Sunday
of Easter

WELCOME, GUESTS!!! We are so glad you came! If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out a guest register at the church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Congregational responses are indicated by indent and boldened letters.

THEME FOR TODAY'S FOCUS - I am the way, the truth, and the life. Christ's message is so exclusive that it rejects all others. There is only one way to the Father, and that way is a *person*. He does not say, 'I show you the way,' like a second Moses, but I am the way. Nor 'I have the truth,' like another Elijah, but I am the truth. Not only 'I lead unto life,' as one of his apostles, but I am the life. The exclusivity of salvation resting in the person of Jesus Christ is a rock against which the unbelieving world crushes itself, but upon which God builds his Church.

MORNING PRAYER

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT— CW, p.26



OPENING HYMN:

#528

CHRIST IS OUR CORNERSTONE



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone; On him a - lone we
2 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall
3 Here, gra - cious God, do now And ev - er - more draw
4 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im -

build. With his true saints a - lone The courts of
ring! Our voic - es we will raise The Three in
near; Ac - cept each faith - ful vow And all your
plore, And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us

heav'n are filled. On his great love Our hopes we
One to sing And thus pro - claim In joy - ful
chil - dren hear, And more and more On those who
ev - er - more Un - til that day When all the

place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.
song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.
pray Each ho - ly day Your bless - ing pour.
blest To end - less rest Are called a - way!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th century, abr.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.
Tune: DARWALL'S 148TH (66 66 4444) John Darwall, 1731–89.

****Please Stand For The Last Verse****

The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also, with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

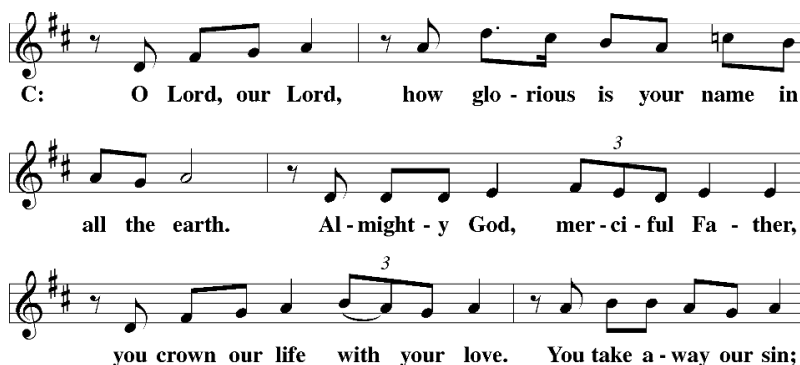


Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD



you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and
 ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
 but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
 O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,
 you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;
 you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
 King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



****Please Be Seated****

FIRST LESSON:

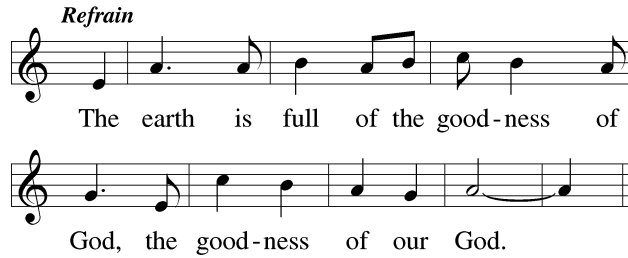
ACTS 17: 1 – 12

Paul said it was necessary for God to hide himself in suffering. All the popular conceptions of Messiah as earthly king were wrong. Not only did Messiah suffer and die, Messiah had to suffer and die!

When Paul and Silas had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. As was his custom, Paul went to the Jews, and on three Sabbath days he led them in a discussion from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. He also said, "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ." Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great number of God-fearing Greeks and more than a few of the prominent women.

But the Jews became jealous and gathered from the marketplace some wicked men, who formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house and searched for Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the mob. When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, "These men, who have stirred up trouble all over the world, have come here too, and Jason has welcomed them as guests! They are all acting contrary to Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, Jesus!" The crowd and the city officials were stirred up when they heard these things. They took a security bond from Jason and the others and then let them go.

That same night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now the Bereans were more noble-minded than the Thessalonians. They received the word very eagerly and examined the Scriptures every day to see if these things were so. Many of them believed, along with more than a few prominent Greek women and men.

*Refrain*

it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
For the Word of the LORD is right and true;*
he is faithful in all he does.
By the word of the LORD were the heavens made,*
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.
For he spoke, and it came to be;*
he commanded, and it stood firm.

Refrain

The LORD foils the plans of the nations;*
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.
But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,*
the purposes of his heart through all generations.
The LORD loves righteousness and justice;*
the earth is full of his unfailing love.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*Refrain***SECOND LESSON****1 PETER 2: 4 – 10**

The Jews rejected him because of his humility. The world today rejects him because of his claims of being the one way, the one truth, the one life. In neither case do they see Christ as the stone that should set their angles or head their corners.

As you come to him, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious, you also, like living stones, are being built as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to bring spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it says in Scripture:

See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who believes in him will certainly not be put to shame.

Therefore, for you who believe, this is an honor. But for those who do not believe:

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and, a stone over which they stumble and a rock over which they fall.

Because they continue to disobey the word, they stumble over it. And that is the consequence appointed for them. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia. (John 14:6)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

****Please Stand****

GOSPEL

JOHN 14: 1 – 12

Jesus bids farewell to his disciples on the night he was betrayed. He tries to set their hearts at rest and tells them to trust God and him regarding this departure. But the disciples' faith is clouded by doubt and false hopes. Thomas cannot conceive of a Messianic kingdom that involves death or

departure. They did not want to see God in sufferings, but in glory. –Martin Luther’s Thesis 20, the Heidelberg Disputations, 1518 AD.

“Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. You know where I am going, and you know the way.”

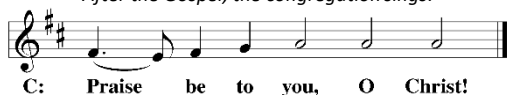
“Lord, we don’t know where you are going,” Thomas replied, “so how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me. If you know me, you would also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

“Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that is enough for us.”

“Have I been with you so long,” Jesus answered, “and you still do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I am telling you I am not speaking on my own, but the Father who remains in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. Or else believe because of the works themselves.

“Amen, Amen, I tell you: The one who believes in me will do the works that I am doing. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



HYMN OF THE DAY:

#343

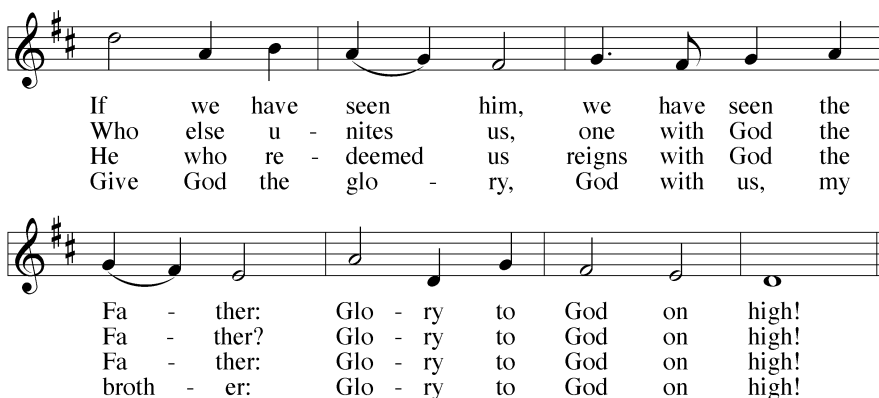
CHRIST IS THE WORLD’S LIGHT



1 Christ is the world’s light, Christ and none oth - er;
 2 Christ is the world’s peace, Christ and none oth - er;
 3 Christ is the world’s life, Christ and none oth - er;
 4 Give God the glo - ry, God and none oth - er;



Born in our dark - ness, he be - came our broth - er.
 No one can serve him and de - spise an - oth - er.
 Sold once for sil - ver, mur - dered here, our broth - er.
 Give God the glo - ry, Spir - it, Son, and Fa - ther;



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000, alt. © 1969 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.
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 Tune: CHRISTE SANCTORUM (10 11 11 6) *Antiphoner*, Paris, 1681.

SERMON:

Searching for Our Home

SERMON TEXT

JOHN 14: 1 – 12

****Please Stand****

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him, all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

****Please Be Seated****

OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR EASTER

O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.

Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#351

HAIL, O ONCE-DESPISED JESUS



1	Hail, O	once - de -	spis - ed	Je - sus!	Hail, O	Gal - i -
2	Pas - chal	Lamb, by	God ap -	point - ed,	All	our sins on
3	Je - sus,	heav'n - ly	hosts a -	dore you,	Seat - ed	at your
4	Wor - ship,	hon - or,	pow'r, and	bless - ing	You are	wor - thy



le - an King! You have suf - fered to re - lease us,
you were laid; By al - might - y love a - noint - ed,
Fa - ther's side. Cru - ci - fied this world once saw you;
to re - ceive; Loud - est prais - es, with - out ceas - ing,



Hope to give and peace to bring. Hail, O u - ni - ver - sal
You have full a - tone - ment made. Ev - 'ry sin has been for -
Now in glo - ry you a - bide. There for sin - ners you are
Right it is for us to give. Help, O bright an - gel - ic



Sav - ior, Bear - er of our sin and shame; By your mer -
giv - en Through the pow - er of your blood; O - pen is
plead - ing, And our place you now pre - pare, Ev - er for
spir - its, All your no - blest an - thems raise; Help to sing



its we find fa - vor; Life is giv - en through your name.
the gate of heav - en; We are rec - on - ciled to God.
us in - ter - ced - ing Till in glo - ry we ap - pear.
our Sav - ior's mer - its; Help to chant Im - man - uel's praise.

Text: *A Collection of Hymns*, London, c. 1757, alt.

Tune: O DURCHBRECHER ALLER BANDE (87 87 D) Freylinghausen, *Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch*, Halle, 1704, alt.

****Please Stand****

THE SACRAMENT



C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

Lift up your hearts.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church. Now have come the salvation

and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

SANCTUS

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
 The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.
 You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.
 I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -
 va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
 The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

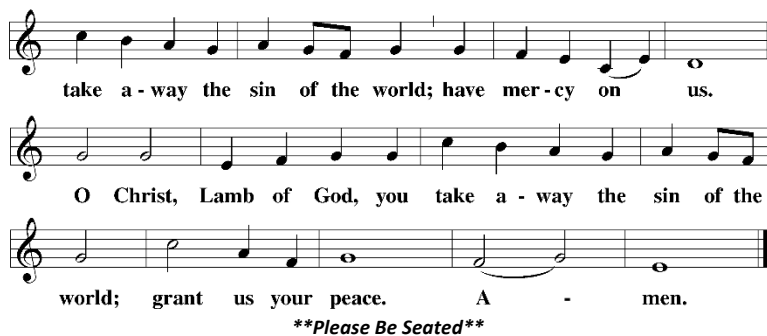
C: A - men.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; grant us your peace. A - men.

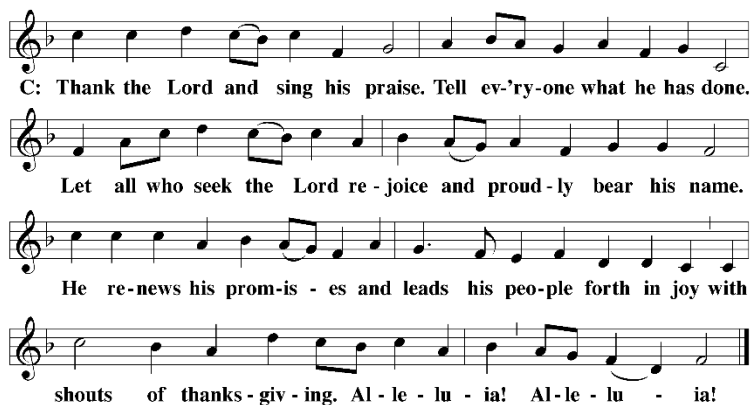
****Please Be Seated****

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul’s guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: “For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord’s body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.

****Please Stand****

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-’ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud - ly bear his name.

He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

CLOSING PRAYER

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

CLOSING HYMN:

#529

BUILT ON THE ROCK



1 Built on the Rock	the Church shall stand
2 Sure - ly in tem - ples	made with hands
3 We are God's house	of liv - ing stones,
4 Here stands the font	be - fore our eyes,
5 Grant then, O God,	your will be done,
	That, when the



stee - ples are fall - ing.	Crum - bled have spires in
High, is not dwell - ing;	High a - bove earth his
own hab - i - ta - tion.	He through bap - tis - mal
God did re - ceive us,	Th' al - tar re - calls Christ's
church bells are ring - ing,	Man - y in sav - ing




ev - 'ry land;	Bells still are chim - ing and call -
tem - ple stands,	All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
grace us owns	Heirs of his won - drous sal - va -
sac - ri - fice	And what the sac - ra - ment gives
faith may come	Where Christ his mes - sage is bring -



ing,	Call - ing the young and old to rest,
ling.	Yet he who dwells in heav'n a - bove
tion.	Were we but two his name to tell,
us.	Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim
ing:	"I know my own; my own know me.



But a - bove all the soul dis - tressed,
 Choos - es to live with us in love,
 Yet he would deign with us to dwell
 Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,
 You, not the world, my face shall see.



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
 Mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 With all his grace and his fa - vor.
 And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.
 My peace I leave with you al - ways."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.
 Tune: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS (88 88 88 8) Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–87.

What We believe:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God and is the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life, and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment and destroy this present world.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Voter's Meeting May 8 – Following today's service, we will hold our voter's meeting; this consists of all confirmed men over 18 (we must have at least 8 of the voters to have a quorum.) The council will provide an overview and reports of our activities over this past year; we will vote on new members; and approve the new budget. Please take a copy of the constitution, and all members sign the official document held by the council secretary—Charlie Vandelicht.

Potluck/New Member welcome – We have many new members who we will be welcoming into our family on May 21, 2023; this is your opportunity to meet our new people. So even if you do not want to eat, take a moment to say hi and greet them.

Surveys – Your council met this past week and would like your feedback. We will send congregational surveys in the mail with a self-addressed stamped envelope to return your feedback. We want the feedback to be anonymous, but we ask that you would give a thought to your church home. Are there areas you think we can improve, new ministries you would like to see us pursue, or ministries we should reconsider? Where would you like to see your church in one year, five years, and ten years? Would you like the surveys emailed or mailed out?

Strategic planning – As promised, we will look at our strategic planning. We have many new faces, so Pastor Emmons will send a survey in the next few weeks. So please look for this and send it back in so we can compile and prepare for our strategic planning.

Sunday Morning Bible Study – The Acts of the Apostles was written by Luke to record the witnesses of the Christian Church, focused on faith in Jesus, and the challenges they faced as the church continued. So Pastor Emmons challenges you to bring your questions. Come and go as you wish! We start around 9:00 am; reading is always voluntary; bring your questions.

Midweek Bible Study – It is back 6 pm on Tuesday evenings! Our Midweek Bible Study of Romans resumes, or whatever topic might arise. If you would just like to peek behind the curtain to see what we are studying, you can join us by Zoom or come to the Port's home: 1923 NW Nickernut Court, Redmond Below is the Zoom link.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057

Password: GraceOT

Pastor Bryant 50th Anniversary – We have been invited to celebrate Pastor Ed Bryant's 50th Anniversary of his ordination into the ministry and his retirement on 4:00 pm Wednesday, May 31, 2023. Please contact Pastor Emmons if you would like to ride with him.

Pastor: Roger Emmons

Email: Roger.emmons@graceredmond.com

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