

Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 11, 2025



Gathering and Welcome *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Prelude *What a Friend we have in Jesus* – arr. Carol Tornquist
La Verne Morris, pianist

***Call to worship** (Isaiah 53:5-6)

He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

***Hymn # 14** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

***Call to confession**

Our sin is before us, leading us astray. Let us return to God through our prayer of confession.

***Prayer of confession**

Merciful God, we have followed the desires of our own hearts and neglected the needs of our neighbors. Forgive our hard and selfish ways. Turn us to Christ and Christ's righteous path. Guide our steps in mission and ministry. Amen.

***Assurance of pardon**

We are an Easter people, forgiven and freed, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. Amen.

Solo *Do You Believe in Me?* —arr. David T. Clydesdale
Soloist, Bob Tyson; Carol Tyson, pianist

Prayer for illumination

God our helper, guide us into and through your Word, that we might be shaped by your Spirit's message to us today and transformed for service in your world. Amen.

Scripture readings Acts 9: 36 – 43; John 10: 22 - 30

Sermon *My Mama Always Said...*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

A Son's Prayer for His Mom on Mother's Day

Lord, Thank you for Mama. Thank you for the woman who gave birth to me and has loved me ever since. I'm grateful for her impact on my life, for her presence, for her love. Thank you for every moment she was there to pick me up from school and every moment she helped me heal from heartbreak.

Thank you for every phone call, hug, compliment, even complaint. Thank you that she cares.

Thank you that despite us not always getting along, our love has endured. I'm grateful for Mama, and pray that you help me to better honor her every day. Show me how I can express appreciation for what she has done. Help me to see all that she has done. God, please help me practice patience when I feel like she's being too much, or too bossy, or too much like a mom. Honestly God, who would I be without Mama?

I pray to you now, God, asking you to bless the remainder of her life. Please bring her comfort when sickness and body aches occur. Please give her continued direction for her life. Keep her mind renewed. God, I ask that the remainder of her life may be enriched, that she would still feel like she has purpose to fulfill, despite having accomplished so much already.

And may she not just continue to be a blessing upon my life, but also my father's, my siblings, other relatives, friends, and anyone else who knows Mama. Thank you for her, God. Thank you God very much. Amen.

- Aaron D. Brown

***Affirmation of faith** (from a Brief Statement of Faith)

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
Jesus 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 for blasphemy and sedition,
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,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.

Hymn # 835 *Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Call for the offering

As Christ's disciples, let us offer our gifts to his ministry.

Offertory *My Faith Looks up to Thee* – Lowell Mason

La Verne Morris, pianist

Doxology #606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Prayer of dedication

Risen Savior, responding to your love and grace, we offer our gifts of time, talent and service. May our offerings feed the hungry, cloth the poor, quench the thirsty and shelter the vulnerable. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

On this fourth Sunday of Easter, with the scent of lilies from the flowering cross not yet a distant memory, hold your resurrection glory before us as our guide and hope, O God. May this season plant seeds of new life and yield growth and maturity in Christ. May the gift of your Spirit be our steady leader and faithful friend.

We praise you, Savior God. **Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!**
(Revelation 7:12)

For mothers around the world today, we give you thanks, O God. We give thanks for the countless ways mothers and mother-figures nurture, educate and inspire. Bless the women who hold and heal, who shelter and protect, who liberate themselves and others from that which discourages and curbs potential.

Within our varied roles and with our differing gifts, help us recognize the Divine's image in all her people.

We praise you, Savior God. **Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!**
(Revelation 7:12)

Righteous God, in a world torn by war, keep us from hate that hardens and scorekeeping with human lives. When our world is troubled and violence is the chosen path, draw near to judge and save. Guide our leaders with your wisdom. Help us walk with humility as our constant companion. Move our hearts with compassion, justice and love.

We praise you, Savior God. **Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!**
(Revelation 7:12)

As the Body of Christ, hear us now as we pray as Christ taught us, "**Our Father ...**"

Hymn # 661 *His Eye is on the Sparrow*

Charge and benediction

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

Live into the hope of Christ's resurrection! Honor the God who calls you to new life!

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you now and always. **Amen.**

Postlude *Praise Him! Praise Him!* – Fanny Crosby:

Music by Chester G. Allen

La Verne Morris, pianist

Presbyterian Outlook, 2025
Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott.