



**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**17 May 2026**

**Rev. Dr. Tom M. Garrison**

# PRELUDE & MEDITATION



**Abby Held, Oboe**  
**Elizabeth Koyama-Violin**

# WELCOME & CANDLE LIGHTING



# OPENING HYMN – CH 56

## *For the Beauty of the Earth*

1.

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

3.

For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart of mind's delight,  
for the Mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

5.

For thy church that evermore  
lifteth holy hands above,  
offering up on every shore  
one pure sacrifice of love,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

# PASSING OF THE PEACE





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**SPECIAL PEOPLE**

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# SCRIPTURE READING

## *Luke 24: 36-53*

Read by Tamika Rybinski

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and

ate it in their presence. He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

# SCRIPTURE READING

## *Acts 1:6-14*

Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said,

“why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

## Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

May God arise, may his enemies be scattered;  
may his foes flee before him.

May you blow them away like smoke—  
as wax melts before the fire,  
may the wicked perish before God.

But may the righteous be glad  
and rejoice before God;  
may they be happy and joyful.

Sing to God, sing in praise of his name,  
extol him who rides on the clouds;  
rejoice before him—his name is the Lord.

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,

is God in his holy dwelling.

God sets the lonely in families,

he leads out the prisoners with singing;

but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

When you, God, went out before your people,

when you marched through the wilderness,

the earth shook, the heavens poured down rain,

before God, the One of Sinai,

before God, the God of Israel.

You gave abundant showers, O God;

you refreshed your weary inheritance.

Your people settled in it,

and from your bounty, God, you provided for the poor.

Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth,  
sing praise to the Lord,  
to him who rides across the highest heavens, the ancient heavens,  
who thunders with mighty voice.

Proclaim the power of God,  
whose majesty is over Israel,  
whose power is in the heavens.

You, God, are awesome in your sanctuary;  
the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people.

Praise be to God!

# SPECIAL MUSIC



Abbey Held, Oboe

# **SERMON**

***Looking to  
the Heavens***



# RESPONSIVE HYMN- CH 346

*Where He leads me I will follow*

1.

I can hear my Saviour calling,  
I can hear my Saviour calling,  
I can hear my Saviour calling  
'Take my cross and follow me.'

2.

I'll go with him thru the judgement,  
I'll go with him thru the judgement,  
I'll go with him thru the judgement,  
    'I'll go with him all the way.'

3.

He will give me grace and glory,

He will give me grace and glory,

He will give me grace and glory and go with me,  
with me all the way.

**OFFERING  
&  
MEDITATION**



# DOXOLOGY – CH 46

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!

# PRAYERS



Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# **CLOSING HYMN – CH 677**

## ***Let there be peace on earth***

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. "With God our creator, children all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

A close-up photograph of two bees on a wooden surface. The bees are yellow and black, with their wings spread. The background is a warm, reddish-brown wood grain. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid on the image, containing white text.

**BLESSING**

**GO IN PEACE TO LOVE  
AND SERVE THE LORD.**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

*Amen!* אָמֵן

# POSTLUDE

