



**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

May 15, 2022

**PRELUDE**

*Alleluia/Sanctuary*  
Joyful Spirit Ensemble

Arr. K. Albrecht &  
J. Dakin

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Pastor Diane

**PASSING THE PEACE**

**RINGING THE BOWL**

**POURING OF THE WATERS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Chuck Ramsay

L. God, this is sacred space; we stand on holy ground. When you are among us, we know that we cannot leave unchanged. Move our focus from ourselves to you. Make our motives pure, and when they are not, grant us mercy. We set aside our own agendas to listen and follow where you would lead us.

**P. May this hour of worship change us as it makes us more like you.  
Amen**

✠ **OPENING HYMN**

*From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

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**CALL TO PRAYER**

Scripture says if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Having heard these words, let us pray together the Prayer of Confession.

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy Spirit, we live with noise, distraction, clatter, and constant commotion. These messages from the world can lead us down a road of confusion, despair, and destruction. We need you to lead us on a path to clarity, hope and life. Help us to clear our minds and open our hearts until all that we hear is you. Guide us, Holy Spirit. *(Silent prayer)***  
Amen

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Before we turn to repent, God's grace is already at work in us. Our repentance becomes our joyful acceptance of God's already promised gift of mercy and forgiveness. Brothers and sisters, believe the Good News of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

✠ **GLORIA PATRI**

581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen, Amen.

**ANTHEM**

*How Can I Keep From Singing*  
Pam Coggins, Oboe

Arr. B Ellingboe

My life flows on in endless song above Earth's lamentation.  
I hear the real, tho' far-off, hymn that hails a new creation.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since love is lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Thru' all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing!  
It sounds and echoes in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

What tho' the tempest 'round me roar, I hear the truth. It liveth.  
What tho' the darkness 'round me close, song in the night it giveth.

**PASTORAL PRAYER/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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**SCRIPTURE**

Acts 11:1-18

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So, when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them."

Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance, I saw a vision. I saw

something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. Then I heard a voice telling me, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’

“I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

“The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’ This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

“Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.’

“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ So, if God gave them the same gift, he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?”

When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

**SERMON**

Standing in God's Way

✠ **LITANY OF FAITH**

L. You have given us the Scriptures that we might know the way to life eternal.

**M. Guide us with your words.**

L. You have given us your Spirit that we might know you more deeply

**P. Guide us, Spirit of God**

L. You have given us the community that we might remind each other of truth.

**M. Guide us in all truth.**

L. We were lost, wandering and alone. But you were here, ready and waiting to give us direction.

**M. Guide us, Father. We will follow.**

✠ **HYMN**

*Be Thou My Vision*

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**CALL FOR OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

C. Gabarain

*\*If you haven't already done so, please print your name in the Fellowship Register.*

*\* If you have a special prayer request, please fill out the blue card in front of you and place it in the offertory. Our Pastors and the Prayer Ministry Team will pray for your request. There is also a box in the Narthex you may place it in as well.*

✠ **DOXOLOGY**

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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.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

✠ **HYMN** *He Leadeth Me*

He leadeth me, O blessed thought  
O words with heavenly comfort fraught  
What e'er I do, where're I be  
Still tis God's hand that leadeth me

Chorus:

He leadeth me, He leadeth me  
By His own hand, He leadeth me  
His faithful follower I would be  
For by His hand He leadeth me

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,  
Nor ever murmur nor repine;  
Content, whatever lot I see,  
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

Chorus

✠ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

✦ **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Because He Lives*

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because he lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know, he holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because he lives!

✦ **POSTLUDE** *Precious Memories* Wright/Arr. Lanier

✦ **All those who are able, please stand**

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**All Worship Services are available for replay on our website.**

[www.valleypres.net](http://www.valleypres.net)

**Please remember those hospitalized or in rehabilitation:**

Bonnie Wollin, and Joan Briggs.

**Flowers for the Sanctuary Provided by:** William Eustis in memory of Fran.

**WELCOME** to all who enter this place. Drink deeply of the living waters of God's grace as we worship together in spirit.

**VISITORS:** Consider yourself at home while you are here! Please enjoy a cup of coffee, lemonade and a cookie while visiting the Visitor's Table in fellowship hall after the church worship service. You can pick up a Visitor's Information Packet at the Visitor's Table or the Welcome Centers. If you would like to receive more information about us, visit us at [valleypres.net](http://valleypres.net) where you can sign up for our daily email blasts and monthly newsletter. Children are invited to worship in the sanctuary then attend Sunday School after Children's Time.

We are glad you have joined us today.

VPC Financial - Attendance / On-Line Viewing Metrics			
Monthly Giving Support Contributions		Weekly Attendance / Viewing	
April-2022		Through Week #19 (05/08/2022)	
Monthly Giving Support	\$ 70,220	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	205
Monthly Giving Budget	70,443	* YTD 2022 Attendance Sanctuary	5,210
*YTD Giving Support	287,434	** Weekly Viewing On-Line	192
*YTD Giving Budget	345,408	** YTD 2022 Viewing On-Line	3,564
		* YTD 2022 Attendance / On-Line	8,774
		* YTD 2021 Attendance Sanctuary	2,553
* YTD = Year to Date      ** Number of on-line devices tuned into Sunday service			
D. Brooks - VPC treasurer - dxb38@cox.net - 520-399-3959      2022 Per Capita is \$41.50 per member			

**THE SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TEAM:** is looking for volunteers who can help set-up, serve, and clean-up in the months of May, June, and beyond. This invitation is open to both males and females. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall during Sunday Fellowship.

**PATIO SALE BOOK TABLE:** Looking for something new to read this summer? Stop by the Patio Sale book table this Sunday, May 15 in Fellowship Hall. All books are free, but we will not say “no” to a donation. When you have enjoyed your book, please pass it on to family, friends, or neighbors. Or put it your neighborhood “Little Library”. Enjoy!

**HOW MARTIN LUTHER CHANGED HISTORY-ZOOM:** the third and final of this series. Join Bud Landry ‘s personal meeting room <https://my-gcu-edu.zoom.us/j/5904813442> passcode: Tucson.

**WOMEN’S MINISTRIES GATHERING LUNCH:** Tuesday May 17, 11:30 a.m. We will feature Rev. John Cheek, he will be speaking about the current crises. This will be a salad potluck, no charge for this luncheon, however we need people to sign up at the Women’s Ministries table in the fellowship after worship.

**UPCOMING THIS WEEK:**

**Monday, May 16**

- 9:00 am Parkinson's Chair Exercises
- 10:00 am Fellowship Committee

**Tuesday, May 17**

- 9:00 am Cardio Drumming
- 9:30 am Prayer Ministry
- 11:30 am Women's Ministries Gathering Lunch and Meeting

**Wednesday, May 18**

- 9:00 am Parkinson's Chair Exercises
- 10:00 am Chair Exercise with Mia Lee Cooper
- 2:00 pm Bell Rehearsal
- 3:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, May 19**

- 1:00 pm Southern Arizona Genealogical Society
- 4:00 pm How Martin Luther Changed History-Zoom

**Friday, May 20**

- 9:00 am Parkinson's Chair Exercises



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**We are a Stephen Ministry Church**



REV. DR. CRAIG LINDSEY, *Head of Staff*  
REV. DIANE CHRISTOPHER, Associate  
*Pastor of Discipleship*

CHRISTINE ERICKSON, RN, *Parish Nurse*  
JAMIE REED, *Director of Music*  
WES MOULTON, *Organist/Accompanist*  
REV. JOE HAWKINS, *Pastor Emeritus*