

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends in Christ, we come to worship God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of us, and of all. And as we gather in the beauty of springtime,

**the earth is warming, the birdsong increases,
the sweeter breezes brush our cheeks,
and the earth holds hope in its seeds and buds.**

Come, let us offer ourselves in worship,

**with joyful noise, with warm hearts,
and with hopeful spirits,
for we are one with the
renewal of the earth
and blessedly held in love
by the One who invites us to share
in the table of grace this morning.**

HYMN *Fairest Lord Jesus* (#630)

Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
O thou of God to earth come down,
thee will I cherish,
thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows,
fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer;
Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine,
fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling, starry host.
Jesus shines brighter;
Jesus shines purer,
than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior,
Ruler of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

PRAYER OF PRAISE - based on Psalm 36:5-10

**Your love, O God,
is as immeasurable as the heavens,
your faithfulness reaches higher
than the clouds in the sky.
Your justice is like the majestic mountains—
firm and unshakeable, and your judgments
are as deep as the ocean depths.
And yet, in your greatness,
you care for all of creation—
people and animals alike.**

**How precious is your unfailing love, O God!
All humanity finds rest in your presence.
We eat and are satisfied at your table;
we drink from the river
of your overflowing kindness.
For you alone can quench our thirst;
you alone can open our eyes
and awaken our souls.**

**May your love continue to grow deeply
in the lives of all who know you.
May your salvation come
to all who follow in your paths.**

(moment for silent prayers and reflection)

PASSING THE PEACE

SONG *Be Still My Soul* (#819)

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 46

MESSAGE Prayer, Perspective, and Peace

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Come, all you who are loved by God! Christ
invites all to trust in him and to dine at his table.
Come to receive all the benefits and blessings of
his atoning death, his life-giving resurrection,
and his ascended lordship.

**We come to the table not just as individuals but
as a community. By sharing the bread and the
cup, Christ makes us one with him and with
each other.**

Just as we are nourished by the food we eat,
Christ nourishes us spiritually at this table with
the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation.

**At the Lord's Supper we look *back*,
remembering the story of our salvation; we
look *around*, seeing that we are together
members of the body of Christ; we look
forward to the great banquet in God's coming
kingdom; and we look *within* to find our
indwelling Lord, who promises to feed us by the
Holy Spirit.**

This is the joyful feast of the people of God! Let
us give thanks:
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**With joy we praise you, gracious Father,
for you have created heaven and earth,
made us in your image, and kept covenant
with us—
even when we wandered away from you.**

**We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who by his life, death, and resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life.**

**Therefore we join our voices
with all the saints and angels
and the whole creation
to proclaim the glory of your name. Amen.**

At his last supper, the Lord Jesus took bread, and
when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,
"This is my body, which is for you; do this in
remembrance of me." In the same way, he took
the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the
new covenant in my blood; do this in
remembrance of me." For whenever we eat this
bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's
death until he comes (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Take, eat! Remember and believe that the body
of Christ is the bread of heaven for us.
Take, drink! Remember and believe that the
blood of Christ is the cup of our salvation.

[Closing Prayer:]

**Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us
in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and
given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in
your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power
of your Spirit to live and work to your praise
and glory for the sake of Jesus Christ, our
Redeemer. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory
now and forever. Amen.*

HYMN *God Be with You Till We Meet Again* (#542)

God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.

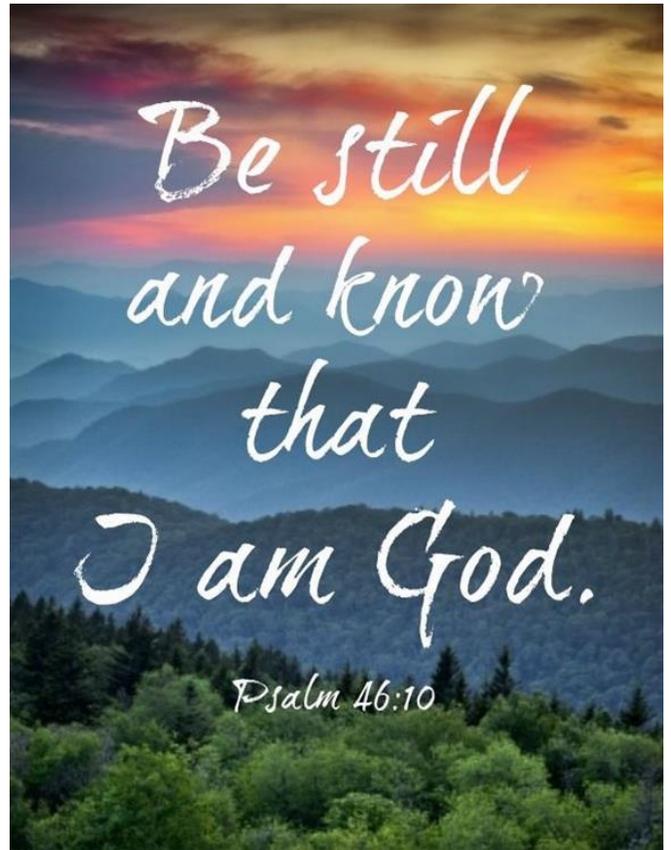
God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you;
smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.

BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ attend you,
The love of God surround you,
And the Holy Spirit keep you,
That you may live in faith,
Abound in hope,
And grow in love,
Now and forevermore.
And all of God's people said, Amen!

POSTLUDE

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21



Today's Worship Volunteers

- Open Church Doors:Hallack Greider*
- Greeter(s):Barbara Schoener
& Liz Carrington*
- Usher(s):Darrel Dreke &
Linda Tortorici*
- Reader:Sheri Teesdale*
- Flowers:Jennifer Sereda
and Art Smith*

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, May 9

- Open Church Doors:Hallack Greider*
- Greeter(s):Linda Tortorici &
Cathy Draper*
- Usher(s):Darrel Dreke &
Liz Carrington*
- Reader:Cathy Draper*
- Flowers:Barb Stromberg*