

## THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter

### We Gather in God's Name...

#### PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

{for silent prayer before starting the worship playlist or conference call}

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.<sup>1</sup> AMEN.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

##### CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 31, *NRSV*; choose a leader)

One: You are indeed our rock and our fortress, O God,

**All: for your name's sake lead us and guide us.**

One: Into your worthy hands we commit our spirits;

**All: you have redeemed us, O Lord, faithful God.**

One: Let your face shine upon your servants;

**All: save us in your steadfast love.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

##### HYMN OF PRAISE "Holy God, We Praise Your Name" #460

##### CALL TO CONFESSION (BASED ON 1 PETER 2:2-10; LED BY ONE)

God invites us to become a people — his people, but we so often want to be our own person. We look to self-interests and not to God-interests. God shows mercy to us and calls us to repent. Let us now confess our sins and invite God's promised mercy in repentance. Let us pray.

##### SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (about 30 seconds)

##### CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

Merciful God, you are working to gather all people to yourself — inviting them into your kingdom through your mercy, but we so often go astray. We focus on our self-interests or on world-interests we sometimes assume are better than your own. You invite us to be a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, your own people for the purpose of proclaiming your mighty acts. We too often hide in darkness when that opportunity for proclamation is before us. Build

our courage and protect us as we grow into the people you call us to be. We pray and ask that you would forgive our sin and grow us into your royal and priestly people. In the name of the one who calls us sisters and brothers, our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

##### ASSURANCE OF PARDON (BASED ON 1 PETER 2:10; LED BY ONE)

Peter writes to the church, "once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." Receive God's mercy and know that you are forgiven. AMEN.

**THE PASSING OF THE PEACE** (You may say: "The peace of Christ be with you." and respond: "And also with you.")

### ...to Proclaim God's Word

**FIRST READING** Acts 7:55-60 <https://bit.ly/3dwG81R>  
{Pick someone in your household to read this scripture passage.}

**EPISTLE READING** 1 Peter 2:2-10 <https://bit.ly/2YENFHI>  
{Pick another person, if possible, to read this passage.}

**GOSPEL READING** John 14:1-14 <https://bit.ly/3b2HVtz>

**SERMON** Rev. Andy Smothers

**HYMN** "The Church's One Foundation" #442

##### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

{I invite you to pray as a household offering your various praises, thanksgivings, and requests to God aloud. Close with the 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. AMEN.

##### CONFESSION OF FAITH Heidelberg Catechism (Questions 88-91)

One: What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion?

**All: Two things: the dying-away of the old self, and the rising-to-life of the new.**

One: What is the dying-away of the old self?

**All:** To be genuinely sorry for sin and more and more to hate and run away from it.

One: What is the rising-to-life of the new self?

**All:** Wholehearted joy in God through Christ and a love and delight to live according to the will of God by doing every kind of good work.

One: What are good works?

**All:** Only those which are done out of true faith, conform to God's law, and are done for God's glory; and not those based on our own opinion or human tradition.

**...to Give Thanks to God...**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (IN UNISON)**

Thank you, Lord, that you do invite us into your family and into your work. You offer that you can be our refuge and that through you we will not be shamed. You offer us deliverance in your righteousness both in life and in death. You are a very worthy one in whom to commit our life and being and spirit. As God and human, you chose us as your people — a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and your own people. In thankfulness for all that you have done for us and continue to do for us, we offer the offerings given to the church in your name and for your work. Guide our session and other leaders to use this as you designate. AMEN.

**...and to Be Sent in God's Name.**

CLOSING HYMN	“Christ Is Alive!”	#108
CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		
RESPONSE	“For All The Saints”	#526

# First Presbyterian Church



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Interim Pastor: Rev. Andrew Smothers  
Clerk of Session: Marla Bruner  
Church Secretary: Wendi Dayrider

Join the online worship playlist from Sunday at 11am at <https://www.conradfirstpres.org/covid-19-worship>. Alternatively, you can listen to the Gospel lesson and sermon at 11:30 am on Sunday by calling (978) 990-5110 and using access code 749966# when prompted. Make sure to include the # key on your phone. Note that there may be a long distance charge depending on your carrier and plan.

<sup>1</sup> Book of Common Worship, 329.