



May 18, 2025
Fifth Sunday of Easter

WE GATHER

CENTERING

PRELUDE

Bells of Faith: Nancy Kuhn, Director

WELCOME

Joseph Dowd

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jane Rall, Liturgist

ONE: We are created by God

ALL: in the image of God.

ONE: *All* people are created by God

ALL: in the image of God.

ONE: In our glorious differences,

ALL: we reflect the Holy face of God.

ONE: All who gather in Christian worship—across the country and around the world—

ALL: are brought near to God through Jesus.

ONE: We are not Jew or Greek,

ALL: low class or high class,

ONE: male or female,

ALL: gay or straight,

ONE: black or white,

ALL: citizen or immigrant. We are one in Christ Jesus.

ONE: We are made in God's
image.

**ALL: So let us love each other
and worship our God with joy.**

WORD

ANTHEM

Nunc Dimittis

Dr. Michael Wu, b. 1967

Music self published by the composer, member ASCAP. Multiple print copies on file at Faith UMC Rockville.

Chancel Choir: Dr. Michael Wu, Director

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Jane Rall, Liturgist

ONE: God of the clean and the unclean,

ALL: we too easily think we can see from your point of view.

ONE: We exclude, hold grudges and nurse contempt,

ALL: all the while hiding ourselves

for fear we too would be found wanting.

ONE: We think we are justified

ALL: because we are made holy by your love, and

we assume holiness means more like us.

ONE: We forget, or never really knew,

**ALL: that all you touch is holy,
and that you created all that is.**

ONE: So when we exclude,

ALL: we exclude you.

ONE: When we hold grudges,

ALL: we resist you.

ONE: When we show contempt,

ALL: we are contemptuous of those you love.

ONE: May we be made holy in truth,

loving as you love,

clean and unclean alike.

ALL: Forgive us and set us free to love like you love. Amen.

ONE: Beloved, God sees us as we are and loves us in our flaws and brokenness, in our resistance and in our forgetting. As beloved and forgiven people, let's stand and offer one another signs of peace.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jane Rall, Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 15:1-18

Jane Rall, Liturgist

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor

***Hymn: #420**

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Words: Edwin Hatch, 1878

Music: Robert Jackson, 1888

Congregation and Choir Chancel

Dr. Michael Wu, Organ

WONDER

MISSION MOMENT

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Jane Rall, Liturgist

WHAT NOW

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor

ALL: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

***Hymn #664**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Words Omer Westendorf, 1964

Music: Welsh folk tune; harm. by Leland Sateren, 1972

Congregation and Chancel Choir

Dr. Michael Wuy, Organ

SENDING FORTH

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor

POSTLUDE

Prelude I in B Major

from Three Preludes and Fugues for Organ, Op. 7, 1920

Composer: Marcel Dupré, 1886-1971

Music published by Alphonse Leduc, Paris.

Dr. Michael Wu, Organ

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are given by Jan Lafleur and David Cope in loving memory of Bryan Edward Cope, son and brother.

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