

*Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.*

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**March 26, 2023**

*The asterisk (\*) indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

## **Silent Prayer of Preparation**

*Holy God, Creator of Life, you call us out of dark places, offering us the grace of new life. When we see nothing but hopelessness, you surprise us with the breath of your spirit. Call us out of complacency and routines, set us free from our self-imposed bonds, and fill us with your spirit of life, compassion, and peace. In Christ we pray, amen.*

## **Gathering Music**

### **The Gathering of God's People**

#### **Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship**

"When Jesus Wept"

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Introit**

"Seek the Lord"

Hal Hopson, 1981

Seek the Lord while he may be found,

Call upon him while he is near. – Isaiah 55:6

### **\*Call to Worship (Psalm 130)**

Leader: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

**People: O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.**

Leader: If you, O Lord, kept record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**People: But with you there is forgiveness, therefore you are feared.**

Leader: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope

**People: Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing in his love and with him is full redemption.**

**The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

**Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we may admit to you the fullness of our lives, the beautiful and good, that which is hurtful and hateful.**

**We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.**

**We love with conditions.**

**We judge and condemn.**

**We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes.**

**We do not turn to you as a source of healing.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service.**

(Silent prayer of confession.)

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Response Hymn**

“Lord, Have Mercy”

#551

**Ministry of the Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Children’s Sermon**

**First Scripture Reading**

John 11:1-45

**Choir Anthem** “More Love To Thee”

arr. Howard Helvey, 2022

More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!

Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee;

This is my earnest plea: more love, O Christ, to thee,

More love to thee, more love to thee!

Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;

Now thee alone I seek, give what is best.

This all my prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee;  
More love to thee, more love to thee!  
Then shall my every breath sing out thy praise;  
This be the only song my heart shall raise.  
This still my prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee;  
More love to thee, more love to thee!

## **Second Scripture Reading**

Romans 8:6-11

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## **Sermon**

Mindset of the Spirit!

Pastor Steve Watters

## **The Response to the Word**

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.**

### **\*Hymn**

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

#66

### **Prayers of the People and 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.**

### **Invitation to Offering**

### **\*Response**

“We Lift Our Voices”

#710

## \*Prayer of Dedication

### The Sending of God's People

## \*Closing Hymn

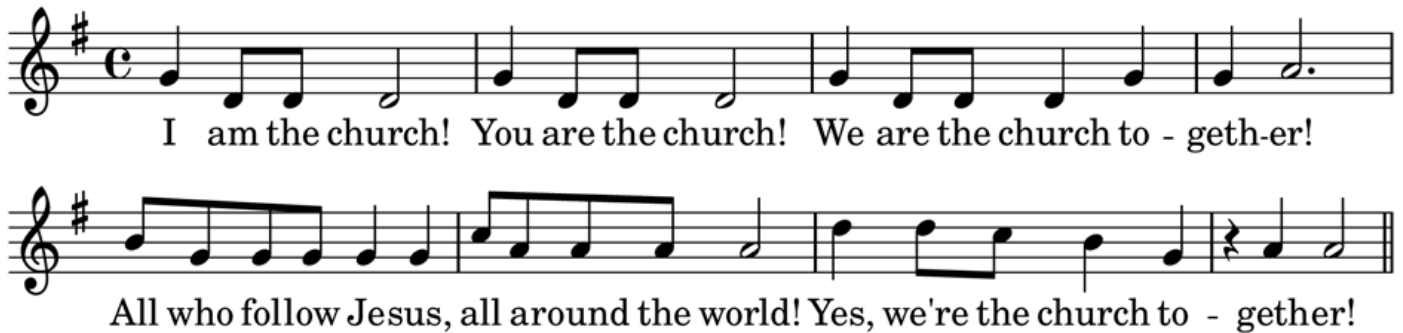
“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

#729

## \*Charge and Blessing

## \*Congregational Response

“We Are the Church”



I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!

All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!

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## \*Postlude

"O Dearest Jesus"

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

**Pastors:** Steve Watters  
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

**Music Director:** Thomas Lloyd

**Organist:** Carol Welk

**Liturgist:** Carole Sue Ames

**Acolyte:** Devin Griggs, Darren Cox

Carole Sue Ames is a lifelong resident of this area. She grew up in Lafayette and attended the Methodist Church. When she moved into London at the age of 15, she began to attend the First Presbyterian Church when it was located on Walnut Street. That was about 1952. She loves her church family dearly and following the path that God has laid out for her.

Carole married Bill Ames in 1956, and they had 5 sons. They enjoyed being involved with their children in school and sports. Bill & Carol have 18 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren with another one on the way. Bill went to be with the Lord in 1998.

Carole enjoyed tennis and softball in her younger years. Today, she enjoys swimming and golfing. She loves to travel whenever possible, and has been active in our church choir since 1970.