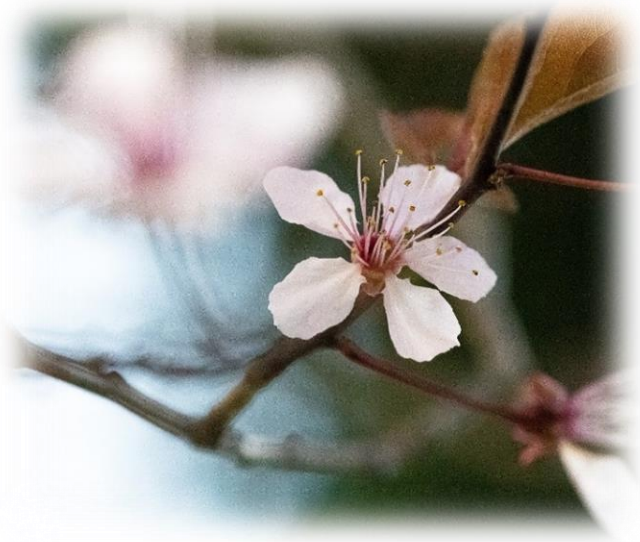


# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter



**May 2, 2021  
at 10:30 a.m.  
on Facebook **Live****

**or on our church website  
at [westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org)**

## COME

Opening Voluntary

Saraband and Interlude

Herbert Sumsion

*We welcome you to Westminster's online worship service this Sunday. To set a more worshipful tone while watching this service at home, we encourage you to find a quiet space and light a candle.*

*If you are joining us on Facebook Live, then you can find a copy of today's bulletin on our church website at [westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org).*

\*Call to Worship

Marcia Holcomb

The earth is the Lord's, for God made it:

**Come, let us adore our God.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

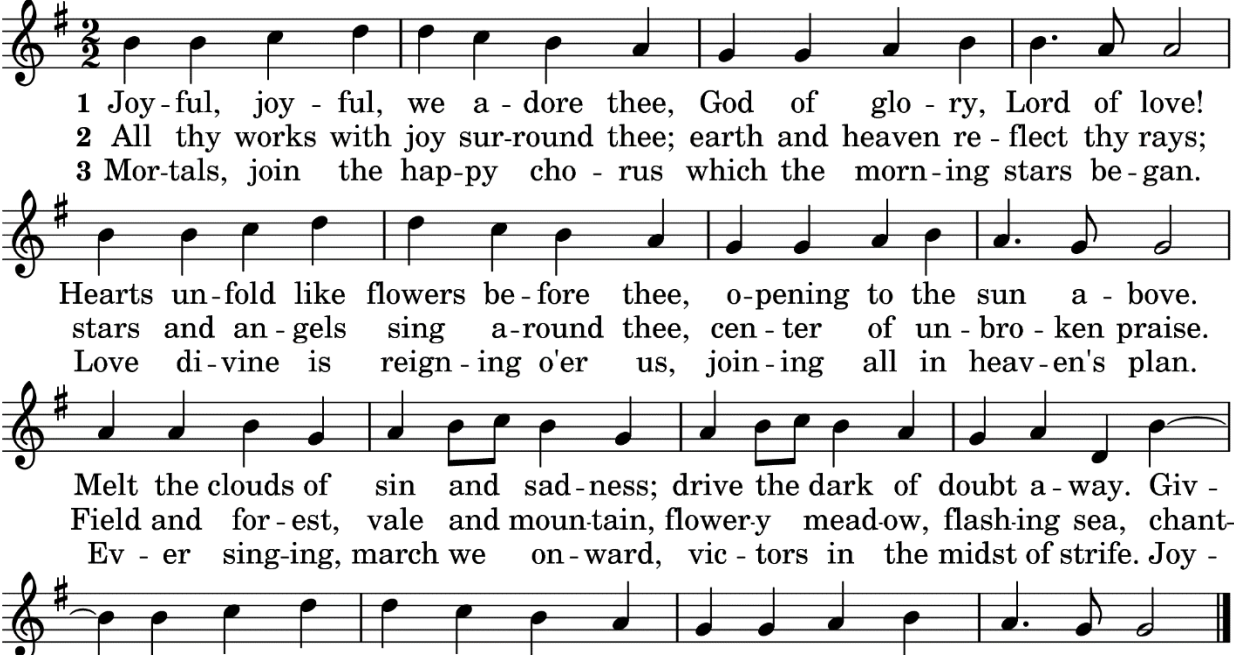
**Come, let us adore our God.**

The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

**Come, let us adore our God.**

Lord, open our lips,

**and our mouths shall declare your praise.**



1 Joy-ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re - flect thy rays;  
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.

Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pening to the sun a - bove.  
 stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
 Love di-vine is reign - ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a-way. Giv -  
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flowery mead-ow, flash-ing sea, chant -  
 Ev - er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife. Joy -

- er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 - ing bird and flow - ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.  
 - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward in the tri-umph song of life.

## ENCOUNTER

### Call to Confession

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God and to one another our failure to love our neighbor.

### Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

*Silence is observed.*

Response 574

Lord, Have Mercy

*Kyrie*

**Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you. In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given to you: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

\*Response 567

Glory Be to the Father

*Gloria Patri*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever, Amen. Amen. Amen.**

\*Passing the Peace

We invite you now to greet one another saying, **The peace of Christ be with you.**

Time for Church Life and Call for the Offering

Offering what we have for the sake of others is a discipline of pruning - letting go of our possessions, our time, and even ourselves - to extend the gospel witness into the world. Be generous in your ministry of giving. You need not fear; you abide in the vine.

Solo

For the Flowers Are Great Blessings  
(From "Rejoice in the Lamb,"  
text by Christopher Smart.)

Benjamin Britten  
*Ben Hayes, soloist*

*For the flowers are great blessings. For the flowers are great blessings. For the flowers have their angels, Even the words of God's creation. For the flower glorifies God and the root parries the adversary. For there is a language of flowers. For flowers are peculiarly the poetry of Christ.*

\*Response 592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Doxology*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Time with Young Disciples

# GROW

## Prayer for Illumination

Come, Holy Spirit, that through your word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world. **Amen.**

### The First Lesson

Psalm 22:25-31

Old Testament

- 25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- 26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.  
May your hearts live forever!
- 27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
- 28 For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.
- 29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.
- 30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,  
31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.

### The Second Lesson

John 15:1-8

New Testament

- 1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.
- 2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.
- 3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.
- 4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.
- 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.
- 6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.
- 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
- 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Fruit of the Vine

The Reverend Jon Hauerwas

# SERVE

## \*Affirmation of Faith

**God holds this world in fierce love, and keeps the ultimate promise by sending Jesus into the world, pouring out the Holy Spirit, and announcing the good news: those who repent and believe in Jesus live anew as members of the family of God - the first fruits of a new creation. As covenant partners, set free for joyful obedience, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in the world. With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness will fill the earth when Christ appears.**

## Prayers of the People

Let us join with all creation in praying for the good of the earth, saying,  
**God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.**

O God, we give you thanks for your Holy Spirit whose work at creation continues in us. Through Christ Jesus you have shown your love for this earth you made. We pray that all the world may know your power and goodness;  
**God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.**

Word of life, reveal the wonder of your world to all people. Show us anew what lives around us, over us, beneath us, within us. Enliven the church with your Spirit, that we may honor your earth with responsible care.  
**God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, uphold our sisters and brothers who endure disasters caused by weather, war, famine, sickness, or greed. Strengthen all who are in peril. You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.  
**God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.**

Giver of all good things, bring trust and sympathy to the nations of the world. Let peacemakers reign wherever there is conflict. Give wisdom to leaders and hope to the poor.  
**God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.**

Good healer, we pray for all who are in need of comfort. Comfort those who mourn; uphold those who are sick, or holding vigil, or awaiting words of hope, especially those we name silently before you now...  
**God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your mercy, we commend to you all those we have named and those whose needs are known only to you, in the name of your Son, Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

And finally, together as the people of God, let us offer the words of the Lord's Prayer, saying in one voice:

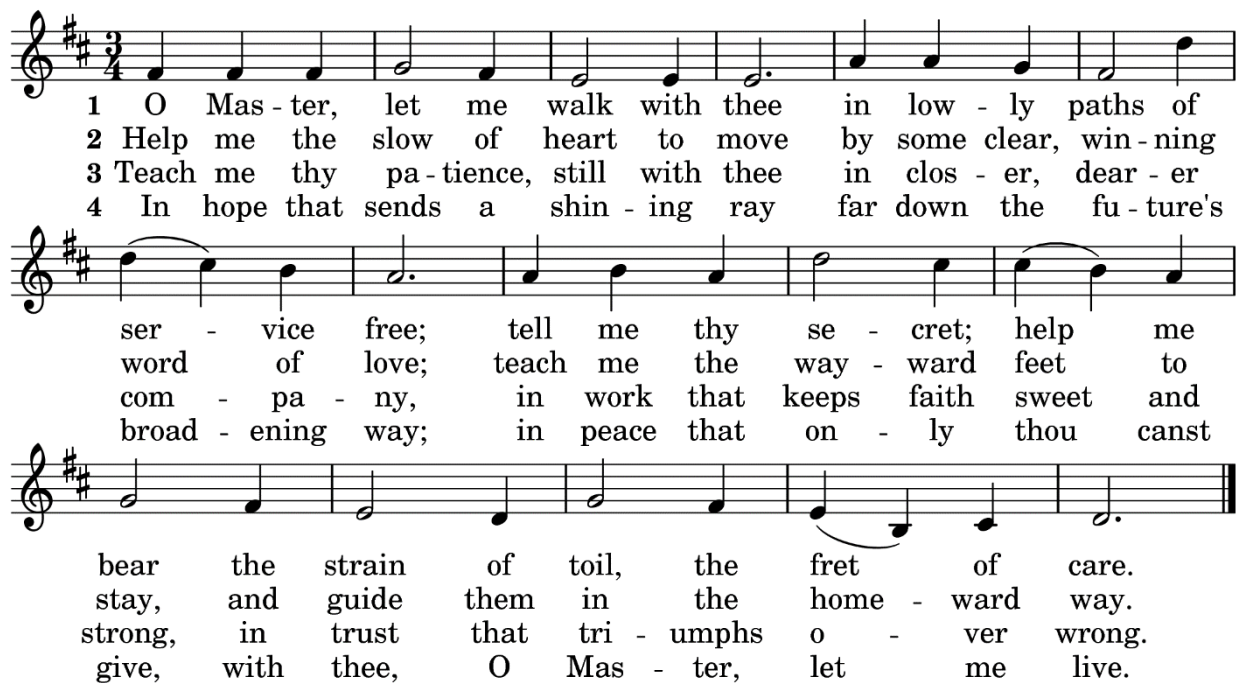
The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

\*Hymn 357

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

MARYTON



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee in low - ly paths of  
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, win - ning  
3 Teach me thy pa - tience, still with thee in clos - er, dear - er  
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the fu - ture's

ser - vice free; tell me thy se - cret; help me  
word of love; teach me the way - ward feet to  
com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith sweet and  
broad - ening way; in peace that on - ly thou canst

bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.  
stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.  
strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.  
give, with thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

\*Charge and Benediction

Go out with the joy that you have been fed and healed, securely abiding as branches of the true vine.

Go and tell the story of faith that is given to you by the One who never lets you go.

Seek out those who abound with sacred questions, and be ready to answer a mystery with love.

As Jesus entered human life, his life is still alive in you. The blessing of Almighty God be upon you today and always.

Voluntary

Hymn to Joy

Arr. Edward Broughton

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The flowers in the Chancel** are given by Marian Wahl in loving memory of her husband, Whitey Wahl, and her parents Glenn and Ruth Clark.

**Book Club Meeting** will be Monday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Cathy Melver for more information at [chwdoc@gmail.com](mailto:chwdoc@gmail.com).

**Script June/July** Deadline is Tuesday, May 11. Please send your articles and pictures to the office, to Claudine Schooley at [wpcoffice1250@gmail.com](mailto:wpcoffice1250@gmail.com).

**First Sunday Food Collection** is today. The Tweens will be waiting to receive your food donation in the driveway behind the church from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Monday Bible Study** Please note a change in the meeting time for Monday Bible Study; starting Monday, May 3, we will meet via Zoom at 1:00 p.m.

CALENDAR of CHURCH EVENTS for the week of May 2-8, 2021	
<b>Sunday, 5/2</b> 9:00 am Youth Zoom Conversation 9:45 am Tween Sunday School via Zoom 10:30 am Worship Service on Facebook Live 11:30 am Zoom Worship Committee Meeting 1:00 pm First Sunday Food Collection with Tweens Helping	<b>Monday, 5/3</b> 1:00 pm Zoom Bible Study  <b>Thursday, 5/6</b> 9:30 am Zoom WPC Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Zoom Adult Education

**Giving Online** During these difficult times, the church remains grateful for your faithful support. To give electronically on the WPC website click under the tab "online giving" and use this QR Code.



The church office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.

Staff schedule in the office: **Monday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. **Tuesday** - Pastor Jon, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, and Dave Bodnar. **Wednesday** - Debby Evrard, Claudine Schooley, and Dave Bodnar. **Thursday** - Claudine Schooley, Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda, and Dave Bodnar. **Friday** - Pastor Jon, Claudine Schooley.



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