



(John 14:15)

"If you love me, obey my commandments."

Sunday, May 25, 2025

Sunday
Virtual Worship

SUNDAY VIRTUAL WORSHIP

Sunday, May 25, 2025

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Jesus Shall Reign”

Dorothy Wells

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 67)

Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon the earth, your saving power among all nations.

People: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

People: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Leader: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

People: May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

*HYMN 478

“Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven”

PRAYER of the DAY (In unison)

Astonishing God, you give us a vision of the heavenly city, the new Jerusalem, your home among mortals on earth. All people and nations will stream to your city where they will find nourishment, healing, and peace. Even now your blessing shines upon all the earth to help us see a larger vision of your loving care for all creation. And so you call us to move beyond our comfortable circles, and into unfamiliar places, as we seek to share your dream of a world made new in Christ. Amen.

CALL to CONFESSION

The Lord says: Come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. God’s font of mercy is never-ending. Therefore, trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER of CONFESSION (In unison)

Loving God, we confess that we are an anxious people who deny your blessing and fail to keep your word.

**Forgive us, we pray, for these and all our sins,
that we might live in peace and reflect your love in the world;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

SINGING 572

“Lord, Have Mercy upon Us”

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

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, but now we have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls.

Hear, then, the good news of God's promise: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

***SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST**

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION (In unison)

Living God, you sent your apostle to preach the gospel to women gathered by a river, in a secluded place of prayer. There a businesswoman named Lydia was led by the Spirit to hear your word as truth. You opened her heart in love, and she opened her home for the spreading of the gospel. By the power of your Holy Spirit, fling wide the doors of our hearts this day as we hear your word of life, that we too may open our lives to serve your world in love. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 16:6-15 and John 14:15-29

SERMON

"Another Advocate"

Rev/ Myles Thompson

AFFIRMATION of FAITH from *Colossians 1:15-20*

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

***HYMN 319**

"Spirit"

INVITATION to OFFERING

The earth has yielded its increase, and God has richly blessed us. Therefore, bring your tithes and offerings and come into God's courts with praise, trusting that the God who has blessed us with all we have and with all we are will multiply these gifts for the sake of his kingdom.

(Those joining us online may use our online giving platform at hocpc.org/give)

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below.

Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER of DEDICATION**

Most beneficent, giving God, as spring bursts forth its blossoms in witness of your love, you bless us from generation to generation with the new life of Easter faith. All that we have and all that we are come from you, O God, so we gladly share this offering, that others too may be blessed, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. 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 404**

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

Live in love, abide in peace, and serve the Lord, for God is ever present.

May the Lord be gracious and bless you that you may live a life of praise forever in God's light.

POSTLUDE

"The Lord is My Rock"

Stephen Otis



Acts 16:6-15

⁶They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; ⁸so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. ¹¹We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.



John 14:15-29

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?” ²³ Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me. ²⁵ “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe.

