

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

May 14, 2006

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregatio

THE PEOPLE GATHER. . .

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

“This Little Light of Mine”
Youth Choir

M. Hayes, arr.

The Call To Worship

Come to worship God whose love was revealed in Jesus.
Let all the ends of the earth turn to our God.
We will worship the Almighty and sing praises.
We will proclaim good news to others.
Beloved, we are called to love as God loves us.
We are to love one another as sisters and brothers.
Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
We seek to let God’s love be perfected in us.
Remember that you have been baptized.
God claims you and has high expectations of you.
Christ is the vine; we are the branches.
We will bear fruit when we abide in the vine.

The Prayer of Adoration

Ruler of nations, you have dominion over all the earth. We praise your name and bow down before you. You bring pride to the humble, and cause the boastful to be brought low. The afflicted find hope through your mercy; the comfortable you challenge and chasten. As your wisdom led our fathers and mothers throughout the ages, open us to the testimony of your love, for we pray in the name of Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh. Amen.

*The Hymn 229

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

*The Prayer of Confession

God of life, you have adopted us as your own through Jesus Christ, yet we seek our lives apart from you, as if a branch cut off from its roots could survive, much less bear fruit. We claim for ourselves the name of Christ but live as if we belong to another. We treat your favor like a trophy – a sign of our deserving instead of your grace. We ask, even now, for your forgiveness, but withhold this same grace from others. Have mercy on us, O God! Apart from you, we can do nothing. . . (time for silent confession). . .

*The Choral Response

“Be Still My Soul”

*The Assurance of Pardon

*The Gloria Patri

p. 579 in the Hymnal

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**
(Please exchange this ancient greeting with worshippers seated near you.)

Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ.)
TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The *New Testament* Lesson: *Acts 8:26-40* p. 153 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 22:25-31* p. 616 in the pew Bible

The Anthem "Thy Perfect Love" J. Rutter

The *Epistle* Lesson: *1 John 4:7-21* p. 292 in the pew Bible

Mother's Day Recognition

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 358 (8:30 a.m.) "Help Us Accept Each Other"

The *Sacrament of Baptism* (11:00 a.m.)

*The *Apostles' Creed* p. 14 in the Hymnal

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Baptism

The Welcome

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church
to share with us in His ministry for we are all one in Christ.**

*The Hymn 495 "We Know That Christ is Raised"

The *Gospel* Lesson: *John 15:1-8* p. 133 in the pew Bible

The Sermon "Grow, Prune and Flourish"
The Rev. Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE. . .

*The *Apostles' Creed* p. 14 in the Hymnal

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering

The Gathering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Doxology, p. 592 in the Hymnal

Your love, O God, is perfected in us through the gift of your chosen one, Christ Jesus. All that we have reflects a measure of his atoning sacrifice poured out on behalf of us all. Accept what we give to you as we respond to Christ's loving-kindness, and enhance what we do, so that others may experience your tenderness. Cultivate us to bear more fruit to the glory of your name through Christ our Savior and Friend. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME.

*The Hymn 418 "God, Bless Your Church with Strength!"

*The Charge & Benediction

*The Postlude