



Order of Worship  
Sunday, May 7, 2023  
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome & Announcements	Carleton Philbrick
Welcome from the Pastor	
Prelude	
Call to Worship	Carleton Philbrick
Come hear the Message! <b>God has come to save us.</b> God brings reconciliation. <b>Our families, communities, and nations will be saved.</b> God loves and redeems the world. <b>God has come to save us. Hallelujah! Amen.</b>	

*Opening Prayer		Carleton Philbrick
*Opening Song of Praise	#310	“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”
Call to Confession		Carleton Philbrick
Prayer of Confession		
<b>God of justice, we admit that we indeed rebel against you; we attempt to hide our actions and thoughts from you. Ignoring your commandments, we violate the image you molded and formed into us. We accept lies as truth; we exploit our neighbors and nature; we threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We know we deserve your condemnation. Have mercy upon us, and forgive our failings, O God.</b> <b>(Silent prayers of Confession)</b>		
Assurance of Pardon		Pastor Carl
Friends, believe and proclaim, with all your heart, the good news of the Gospel: <b>In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.</b>		
*Gloria Patri		#581
*Sharing the <i>“Peace of Christ”</i>		
Song of Meditation	#724	“O Jesus, I Have Promised”
Prayer for Illumination		Carleton Philbrick
First Scripture Reading	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	Carleton Philbrick
In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.		

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;  
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,  
take me out of the net that is hidden for me,  
for you are my refuge.  
Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.  
Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Second Scripture Reading                      1 Peter 2:1-10                      Carleton Philbrick

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

and  
“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”  
They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;

once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading                      Acts 7:44-8:1                      Pastor Carl

“Our ancestors had the tent of testimony in the wilderness, as God directed when he spoke to Moses, ordering him to make it according to the pattern he had seen. Our ancestors in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our ancestors. And it was there until the time of David, who found favor with God and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with human hands; as the prophet says, ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?’ “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.” When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died. And Saul approved of their killing him.

The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Pastor Carl McCormack

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived of the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*universal church**

## Postlude

## Jo Murry, as Musician

**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**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, May 7—9:45am—Fellowship Class**  
**11am—Worship Service—Communion**  
**Pastor Carl McCormack**

**Monday, May 8—10:30am—Monday Morning Prayer Group**  
**6:30pm—ASDS**

**Wednesday, May 10—4:30pm—Bell Choir**

**Sunday, May 14—9:45am—Fellowship Class**  
**11am—Worship Service—Communion**  
**Pastor Carl McCormack**

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**Saturday, May 20—1:30pm –Presbyterian Women**  
**“A Posh Affair” - Celebrating Presbyterian Women**  
**High Tea Birthday Party**  
**Hats are encouraged!**

# PRAYER NOTES—

**Recent:** Donna Ellis, Sandy Philbrick, Diane Taylor,

**Continued prayers for:** Patt Bond, Pat Clark, Bill Jones, Jesse Macon-Teague, Ann & Jack McCollum, Wendell Phillips, LaVonne Smith,

**Continued prayers for friends of the church:** Charles Clark & Darnell Clark, Constance Hughes, Stephanie Phillips, Elizabeth Pollard, Norma Smith,

**Prayers for those in home confinement:** John Atterbury, Ann Cother, Bunn Falls (Johnson County Health & Rehab), Clarksville, LeMoyne Jones (AR State Veterans Home), Steve Pollard (UAMS), David Rennie, Ann Woods.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:** We are thankful for the recovery of Margret Nixon, and the good news concerning Judy Peters tests, as well as the continued recovery of Shirley Garlington.

**Continued prayers for those in grief:** For the family of Willette Lollar.

\*Please contact the church office if you need someone placed on or taken off the prayer notes. Thank you.