



*Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Worship  
May 2, 2021  
Let us worship our  
Risen Lord!*

*PRELUDE*

*CALL TO WORSHIP*

*We worship the God who inhabits our world  
and indwells our lives.*

*We need not look up to find God,*

**we need only to look around:**

**within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.**

*We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God,*

**we need only listen to the music of life,**

**the words of children, the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat.**

*We worship the God who inhabits our world*

**and who indwells our lives.**

*OPENING PRAYER*

**Most Gracious God we greet you once again in this sacred space. We have come because we need to be reminded of your love and your expectations for our living. We are like the vine you planted, watered and protected. We know in our hearts that we need, want and desire your presence in our lives. So we come in prayer and listen for your Word to speak to our hearts and reveal again your desires for us. Amen.**

*HYMN #624 I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*

1. I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art, my only trust and Savior of my heart,  
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake; I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.

2. Thou art the King of mercy and of grace, reigning omnipotent in every place:  
so come, O King, and our whole being sway; shine on us with the light of thy pure day.

3. Thou art the life, by which alone we live, and all our substance and our strength receive;  
sustain us by thy faith and by thy power, and give us strength in every trying hour.

4. Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness; no harshness hast thou and no bitterness.  
O grant to us the grace we find in thee, that we may dwell in perfect unity.

5. Our hope is in no other save in thee; our faith is built upon thy promise free;  
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure, that in thy strength we evermore endure.

*CALL TO CONFESSION*

*The seeds of grace, hope, joy, and love are planted deep with us, so they can bear fruit in our lives. But we resist staying connected to Jesus, the Vine, thinking we can flourish on our own. Let us confess our sins, so we can once more feel God abiding deep within us.*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND BROKENNESS*

**Loving God, we confess that we have not loved as we ought. We have used love as if it was to be hoarded**

rather than shared freely. We have set limits on something that not ought to have borders. We have guarded how we love others instead of sharing your grace. Forgive us for not loving as you have first loved us—without condition. Forgive us for determining who is and who is not worthy of love, when you are Love. Forgive us for not following the example of our Savior, who became last of all and servant of all, who laid down his life for us all in the name of love. Call us into your way, that by caring for the most vulnerable, we care for all. By loving those who are different than us, we love ourselves best. By sharing in this love, we reflect your image in us. In the name of Jesus Christ, who came to us in the name of love, we pray. Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND BLESSING*

*The steadfast love of God endures forever. There is no limit to God's grace. You are God's beloved. You are forgiven and restored. Love one another deeply as God has loved you, and you will know the peace of Christ in your hearts. Remember the good news and say it with me: **Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.***

*FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON* John 15:1-8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

*HYMN #703* Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

1. Jesus, thy boundless love to me no thought can reach no tongue declare; O knit my thankful heart to thee, and reign without a rival there! Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live; myself to thee entirely give.
2. O grant that nothing in my soul may dwell, but thy pure love alone; O may thy love possess me whole, my joy, my treasure and my crown! All coldness from my heart remove; may every act, word, thought be love.
3. O Love, how gracious is thy way! All fear before thy presence flies; care, anguish, sorrow melt away where're thy healing beams arise. O Jesus, nothing may I see, nothing desire, or seek but thee.

*SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON* 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*SERMON* It's About Love

*RECOGNITION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION*

**From you comes every gift we need, every blessing we have. May we not hoard them for ourselves, but offer them back to you, that the poor might be fed, the lonely befriended, and the despairing be filled with hope. This we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**

*JOYS AND CONCERNS*

*INVITATION TO THE TABLE*

*HYMN #526* Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

1. Let us talents and tongues employ reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken, the wine is poured; Christ is spoken and seen and heard. Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around; loaves abound!
2. Christ is able to make us one; at the table he sets the tone, teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around; loaves abound!
3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere! Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around; loaves abound!

*GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING*

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS*

*UNISON PRAYER*

**Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*HYMN #300* We Are One in the Spirit

1. We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord; (repeat)  
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:  
and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
2. We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand; (repeat)  
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
3. We will work with each other; we will work side by side (repeat)  
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:  
and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come, and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:  
and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

*BENEDICTION*

*POSTLUDE*

## Sunday May 2 – ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY** – As we will be celebrating Ryon Herin, our seminary intern, with a special lunch at the church, there is no Sunday School today. Sunday School will resume next week at 11:30.

**CELEBRATION PICNIC FOR RYON HERIN, OUR INTERN** – Today is Ryon’s last Sunday with us. We are sorry to see the year come to an end but are thankful for the blessing he has been to Forest Grove these past eight months. To wish him well, we are inviting all to remain after worship for a picnic (bring your own). Dessert will be provided but no other food or drinks due to COVID safety concerns.

**THURSDAY EVENING STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP:** 7pm on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782. Pastor Su is leading a study on the book of Ruth.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** – July 19 – 23 2021, 9AM – noon. Check our Website [www.forestgrovechurch.org](http://www.forestgrovechurch.org) for more information and/or go to [ybspro.events/p/dp9219](https://ybspro.events/p/dp9219) to sign up. Share the information with your friends or family with children. You do not need to be a member of FGPC to attend VBS. Or call the Church office at 215-794-8575. Call Kim King 215-340-0530 or Beth Conti 267-491-5646 to volunteer.

**Calendar:** May 5 - 7PM Confirmation Class - Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>  
May 6 – 7PM Bible Study - Zoom

**In our thoughts and prayers:** Doris Elliott, The Conner/Lang Family, Diane Dauer, Aleena Lang, Natalie Pizza, Bill Wark, Nancy Yerkes, Raymond Tinari, Dick Wright, Judy Ferguson