

May 3, 2026  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**PREWORSHIP MUSIC**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

*All people: Living God, you are our refuge and our strength - our shelter in uncertain times, our foundation when the ground feels unsteady. You gather us, shape us, and build us together into a people of mercy and grace. So breathe your Spirit among us now - that we may be renewed, that we may be strengthened, that we may become what you are calling us to be. In your presence, we find life. In your love, we find our way. Amen.*

**PRELUDE**

**Mr. Kevin Crone**

**CANDLE LIGHTING**

**Acolyte**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: To God be the glory for all that God has done.

**Congregation: We come to praise with grateful hearts.**

Pastor: Come to the One who is our refuge and our strength.

**Congregation: Our lives are held in God's hands.**

Pastor: We are being built together in Christ—

**Congregation: a people of mercy, a community of grace.**

*All people: Let us worship God.*

**HYMN**

*To God be the Glory*

**Blue Hymnal #72**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Pastor: There are times when we forget who we are - when we lose sight of the mercy we've received and the grace we're meant to share. But God does not turn away. God remains our refuge. So let us come honestly before God, trusting that grace meets us here.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*All people: Merciful God, you call us your people, yet we do not always live as those shaped by your love. You build us together, yet we pull apart. You offer mercy, yet we withhold it from others - and from ourselves. We forget that we are held in your hands. We act out of fear instead of trust,*

*division instead of compassion, scarcity instead of grace. Forgive us, O God. Restore us to ourselves and to one another. Shape us again - as living stones, as a people of mercy, as a community rooted in your love. Amen.*

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Hear the good news: 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. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, restored, and held securely in God's hands.

*All people: Thanks be to God. Amen.*

#### GLORIA PATRI

**Blue Hymnal #35**

#### JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

#### HYMN

*The Church's One Foundation*

**Blue Hymnal #272**

#### PSALTER READING

**Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

#### EPISTLE READING

**1 Peter 2:2-10**

#### SERMON

**Rev. Laura C. Baker**

#### PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

*All people: 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.*

#### ANTHEM

*We All Are One in Mission* (Edwards)

**Chancel Choir**

#### OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: We give today not out of obligation, but as a response - a response to the mercy we have received and the grace that continues to shape us. Each gift - large or small - becomes part of something greater than ourselves. We are being built together into a living witness of God's love. Let us stand, as is comfortable, and offer our gifts with grateful hearts - with a song and a prayer.

#### DOXOLOGY

*We Give Thee* (Verse 1)

**Blue Hymnal #382**

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*All people:*

*Generous God, you are our refuge and our source of all good things. Receive these gifts we offer today - and receive our lives as well. Use them to build what you are building: a community of mercy, a people of hope, a living testimony to your love. Shape us, guide us, and send us - that all we are and all we offer may reflect your grace. In Christ's name, Amen.*

#### HYMN

*My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

**Blue Hymnal #537**

#### BENEDICTION

Pastor:

And so we go -  
not on sinking sand,  
but on the sure foundation of Christ.

Go as those who trust -  
even when the ground feels uncertain,  
even when the way is not yet clear.

For you are not alone.  
You are being built together -  
a people shaped by mercy,  
held in grace.

And remember this:  
your times are in God's hands.

So go in peace,  
to live what you have sung,  
and to trust the One who holds you fast.

*All people:*

*Amen.*

#### POSTLUDE

**Mr. Kevin Crone**

#### CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

**Acolyte**