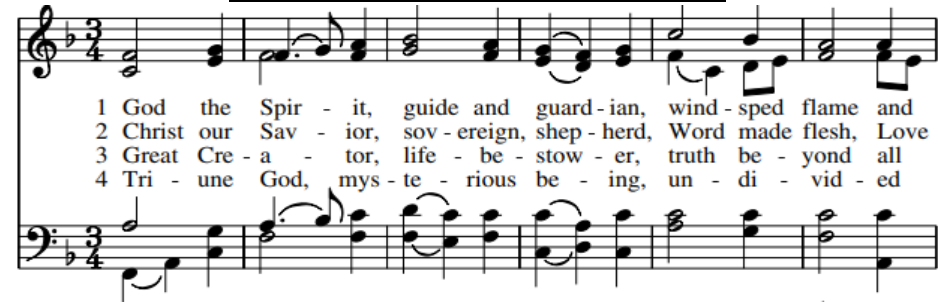
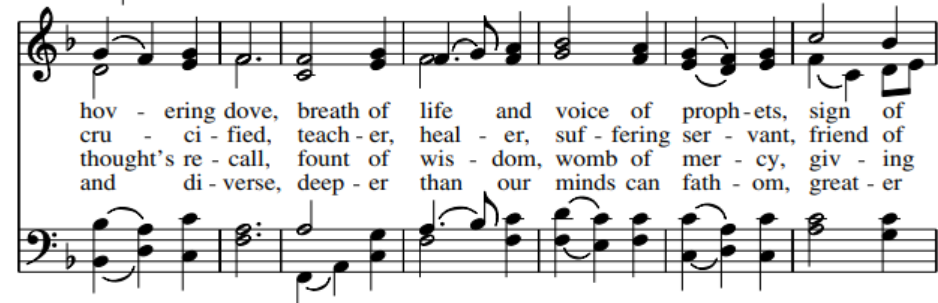


God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

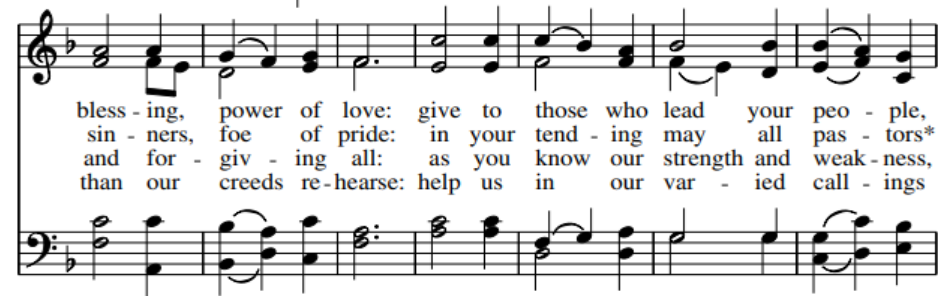
May 7, 2023
Fifth Sunday of Easter



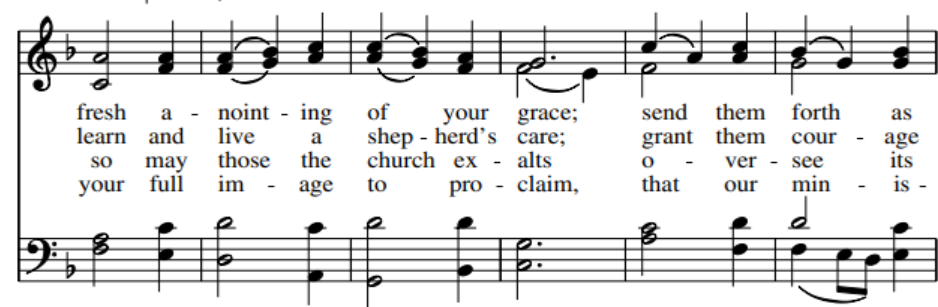
1 God the Spir - it, guide and guard - ian, wind - sped flame and
2 Christ our Sav - ior, sov - ereign, shep - herd, Word made flesh, Love
3 Great Cre - a - tor, life - be - stow - er, truth be - yond all
4 Tri - une God, mys - te - rious be - ing, un - di - vid - ed



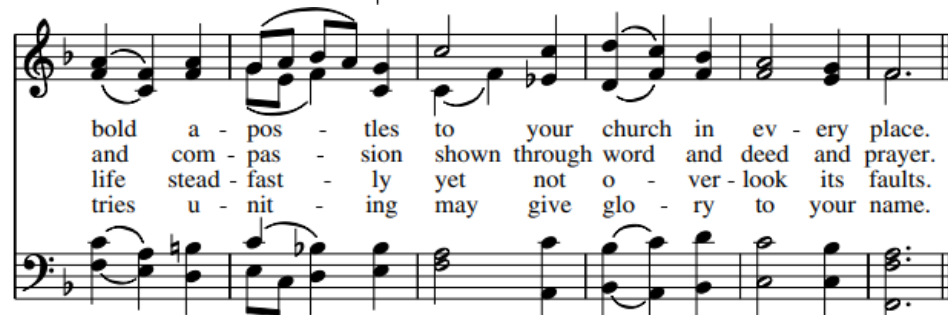
hov - ering dove, breath of life and voice of proph - ets, sign of
cru - ci - fied, teach - er, heal - er, suf - fering ser - vant, friend of
thought's re - call, fount of wis - dom, womb of mer - cy, giv - ing
and di - verse, deep - er than our minds can fath - om, great - er



bles - ing, power of love: give to those who lead your peo - ple,
sin - ners, foe of pride: in your tend - ing may all pas - tors*
and for - giv - ing all: as you know our strength and weak - ness,
than our creeds re - hearse: help us in our var - ied call - ings



fresh a - noint - ing of your grace; send them forth as
learn and live a shep - herd's care; grant them cour - age
so may those the church ex - alts o - ver - see its
your full im - age to pro - claim, that our min - is -



bold a - pos - tles to your church in ev - ery place.
and com - pas - sion shown through word and deed and prayer.
life stead - fast - ly yet not o - ver - look its faults.
tries u - nit - ing may give glo - ry to your name.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Jeremiah 6:16)

Pastor: This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls."

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: Gracious God, we now open our eyes, ears and hearts (to listen to you). Please speak to us and give us Your word, for we cannot live on bread alone. Please light up our insides with the work of the living Holy Spirit. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN

God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

Back of Bulletin

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Let us indeed draw near to our blessed Lord and confess all that distracts and distorts God's truth. In doing so, we can know grace and forgiveness through our Risen Savior. Let us pray together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Holy God, we were not able to love you with all our hearts and love our neighbor as ourselves. We wanted to be forgiven, but we could not forgive others. Please give us the grace of forgiveness so that we can get back on our feet today. There are still conflicts in this world. Please give us your will and wisdom to overcome conflicts and live together in peace. Lead us to a new step, free from hatred and conflict. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: God hears our prayers. We are forgiven for our sins.

Congregation: May God's grace move us to be peacemakers.

Pastor: This is what the Lord says: "I have swept away your offense like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you."

All: Thanks be to God for amazing grace. May I be moved to extend grace to others. Amen.

PRAISE HYMN

Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound – that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found; 'twas blind, but now I see.*

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

HYMN

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

Hymnal, #461

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Judges 14:1-9

EPISTLE READING – 1 Peter 2:2-10

GOSPEL READING – John 14:1-14

SERMON

Rev. Laura C. Baker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER (using “sins”)

All: 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.

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: God blesses us abundantly. Let us respond to the great grace and offer good things to God with thanksgiving and devotion.

DOXOLOGY

We Give Thee but Thine Own

Hymnal, #258

(Verse 1, only)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Holy God, we have received so much blessing from you that has helped us walk through this past week. We are grateful for the blessings you have given us, and we return some of them to you in this moment of worship. Please use it for your work. In Jesus Christ’s name. Amen.

HYMN

Send Me, Lord

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BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go forth into the world in peace. Love the Lord God and love your neighbor. Serve the Lord God and serve your neighbor. May Jesus Christ’s grace, God’s love, and the Holy Spirit’s guidance be with you now and eternally.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

POSTLUDE

SEND ME, LORD (THUMA MINA)

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It features a Solo part and a Choir part. The lyrics are provided in both English and Japanese. The Solo part begins with the lyrics '1. Thu - ma mi - na'. The Choir part has four verses of lyrics. The score includes a repeat sign and a first ending bracket labeled '1.,2.,3.' and a second ending bracket labeled '4.'. The Solo part ends with a double bar line and repeat sign. The Choir part ends with a double bar line and repeat sign.

Solo
1. Thu - ma mi - na

Choir
Thu - ma mi - na, Thu - ma mi - na, Thu - ma mi - na, Thu - ma mi - na
Je - sus, send me Je - sus, send me
Je - sus, lead me Je - sus, lead me
Je - sus, fill me Je - sus, fill me

1.,2.,3.
2. Send me Je - sus
3. Lead me Je - sus
4. Fill me Je - sus

4.
mi - na So - man - dla Send me
Je - sus, send me Lord Lead me
Je - sus, lead me Lord Fill me
Je - sus, fill me Lord Lord

References

Today’s liturgy is from the United Church of Christ Worship Ways. It is titled: *The Way: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday in Easter*. It was written by Rev. Motomu Ishida is Nihongo (Japanese Language) Pastor of Sycamore Congregational Church, UCC (シカモア組合教会) in El Cerrito, California. Visit Sycamore UCC here: ホーム