

Protect them by Thy guarding hand From every peril on the land.
 O Spirit, Whom the Father sent to spread abroad the firmament;
 O Wind of heaven, by Thy might
 Save all those who dare the eagle's flight,
 And keep them by Thy watchful care For every peril in the air.
 O Trinity of love and power, Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
 From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
 Protect them wheresoe'er they go; Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
 Glad praise from air and land and sea.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** *O God, Show Mercy to Us (v.2)* Gustav Holst
 For You will judge the peoples in truth and righteousness,
 and on the earth all nations will Your just rule confess.
 Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing.
 Then earth in rich abundance to us its fruit will bring.
 The Lord our God will bless us; our God will blessings send,
 and all the earth will worship to its remotest end.

***VOLUNTARY** *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* arr. Mark Hayes

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elder # - Evelyn Parker (8:45); Martha Sheppard-Mahaffey (11:00)
Deacon/Ushers † - John Futrell, Campbell Futrell,
 and Larry Thomas(8:45);
 John Futrell, Campbell Futrell, Kenzie Aynes,
 and Elna Singleton (11:00)

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

Sunday, May 25 - Guest Preacher - Rev. Josh Maddin

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

Monday, May 26 - Memorial Day

The Church Office will be closed

Wednesday, May 28

7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir rehearsals

Sunday, June 1

Lord's Supper will be observed at both Worship Services

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

VBS Sign-up Sheets are available in the Welcome Center

Tuesday, June 3

7:00 p.m. - Christian Education Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 4

7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir rehearsals

Saturday, June 7 through Saturday, June 14

The Youth and Sponsors will be away on the 2025 Mission Trip

Sunday, June 8 - Guest Preacher Rev. Jim Witherow

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

Tuesday, June 10

7:30 p.m. - Worship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 11

7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir rehearsals



THE CHALLENGE
 The 100 Can Challenge continues. . .
 Let us carry on THE CHALLENGE to collect can goods and other non-perishable items. The donated items will be given to Sharing Life, as they feed those in need in our community. Our total for May is currently **93** items.
 Thank you for your generosity.

THOSE WHO SERVE
 Rev. Dr. E. Jones Doughton, Pastor
 Ryoji Shimpo, Director of Music/Organist/Pianist
 Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant
 Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

GUIDE TO WORSHIP

May 25, 2025

8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

About the Cover Picture

Memorial Day began in the years immediately following the Civil War or The War Between the States. Ladies would decorate the graves of their respective loved ones in communities in The South and The North. In several towns the ladies would decorate graves from "the other side". Over time this became a widespread custom. "Memorial Day" came as a result.

The poppy became a symbol of remembrance for World War I veterans after Canadian soldier and physician Major John McCrae wrote the poem "In Flanders Fields" in 1915. The poem describes poppies growing among soldiers' graves along the Western Front, which were often churned up by fighting and shelling. The red poppies came to symbolize the blood shed in battle. In time, this flower came to represent a way to honor all who had died in a nation's battle. Today, we can remember



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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY *O God Beyond All Praising* arr. Lloyd Larson

INTROIT *O God, Show Mercy to Us (v.1)* Gustav Holst

O God, show mercy to us, and bless us with Your grace;
and cause to shine upon us the brightness of Your face,
so that Your way most holy on earth may soon be known,
and unto every people Your saving grace be shown.
Let all the peoples praise You; let all the nations sing;
in every land let praises and songs of gladness ring.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Philippians 1:2; Psalm 118:24; Psalm 103:1*
Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And also to you.

The Lord is the giver of all good things. The Lord has given hope to the world. The Lord gives us faith so we may stand. The Lord guides us and works to conform us to the image of Jesus Christ. Let us worship God.

*HYMN 336 *We Gather Together*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mighty and Merciful God, by Your power in Christ is raised from death to rule this world in love. We confess that we have not believed in Him, but fall into doubt and fear. Gladness has no home in our hearts, and gratitude is slight. Forgive our dread and our hopelessness, and set us free for joy in the victory of Jesus Christ, Who was dead but now lives, and Who will put down every power to hurt or destroy, when Your promised kingdom comes. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE (Hymn 581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. A—men. A—men.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM (11:00) *An American Tribute* Douglas E. Wagner
Chancel Choir

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountains majesties, above the fruited plain.
America, America, God shed his grace on thee,
and crown they good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.
My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride,
from every mountainside let freedom ring!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw.
Confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law.
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.
America! America! Of thee I sing.

READING *Prayer for Healing and a Meaningful Life*
adapted from President Jimmy Carter
and President Ronald Reagan

*HYMN 475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty and All-Knowing God, open our hearts and minds by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that, as Your Word is read and proclaimed, we may hear with joy what You say to us today. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Psalm 24*

A Psalm of David. The earth is the LORD's and the fulness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein; for He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And Who shall stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false, and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. [Selah] Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! [Selah]

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Matthew 25:14-30*

"For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to

him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

The children and youth are asked to come forward at this time.

*HYMN 337 *My Country, 'Tis of Thee (v.4)*

SERMON *Parable of the Talents* Rev. Maddin

*HYMN 331 *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*

PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *tune is "THAXTED"*

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago, Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know; We may not count her armies, we may not see her King; Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering; And soul by soul and silently shining bounds increase; And her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths are peace.

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN 338 *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Reflections on 'America'* Hugh S Livingston, Jr
Ryoji Shimpō, pianist

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION †

*HYMN *Almighty Father, Strong to Save* William Whiting,
Robert Nelson Spencer

Almighty Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,

Who biddest the mighty ocean deep Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee For those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain O'er which our traffic runs amain
by mountain pass or valley low; Wherever, Lord, Thy brethren go,