

Happy and Joyous Mother's Day

Fourth
Sunday
of
Easter



May 11th 2025

Portage Lake United Church



Ann Campbell

Welcome and Announcements

We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, source of all goodness and mercy. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

- The Annual PLUC Spring Cleanup will be held on Saturday, May 17 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. All are welcome!”
 - Copper Country Chorale 60th Anniversary Concert - Songs That Connect Us - Sunday, May 18th @ 3:00 pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
 - Angel Mission needs: Peanut Butter or other nut butters
 - **Are there any other announcements?**
-
- Flowers today provided by Rick vonBatchelder in memory of Flossie Merrifield, Leta and Cleo vonBatchelder



Liturgical Color: White/Gold
Lectionary Year C

Serving This Morning

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland

Musician: Susie Byykkonen

Greeter: Lois Jambekar

Reader: Nancy Byers Sprague

Prayer: Rev. Peter Norland

Coffee: The Norland's

Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION



Gratitude is the most fruitful way of deepening your consciousness that you are not an “accident”, but a divine choice.

(Henri J.M. Nouwen)

Freedwoman

Juneteenth Freedom
Memorial
Adrienne Isom
Austin, TX

+ Call to Worship (responsive)

The Lord is our shepherd;
we lack nothing.
Though we may walk through the darkest valley,
we fear no evil; for God is with us.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us
all the days of our lives,
and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
All: Let us worship God!



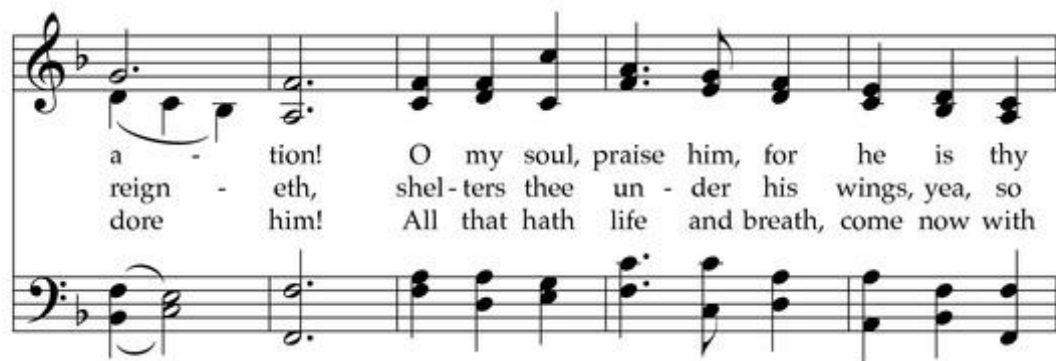
Sherry Middlemis-Brown

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



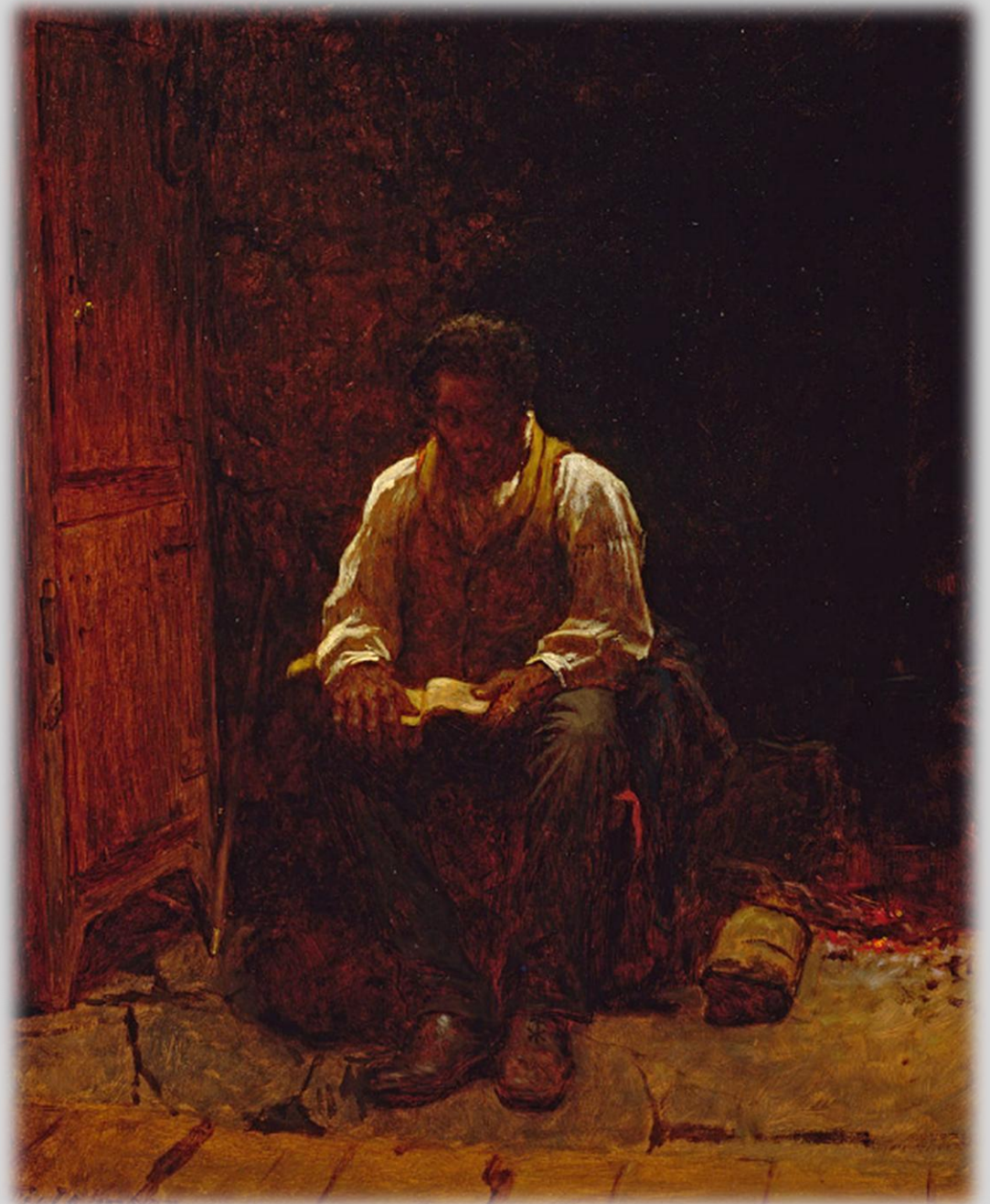
tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God, you have told us who you are,
and we still struggle to believe.
In Jesus Christ, you reveal your unending care for us,
and we give thanks.
Grant us the vision of the world you see,
a world without hunger, thirst, or tears.
Lead us into the future you are preparing, O God,
as we follow with grateful hearts.
Amen.

The Lord is My Shepherd
Eastman Johnson
Smithsonian Museum of American Art
Washington, DC



+ Thanksgiving for Baptism (responsive)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Creator God,
you drew out life-giving water from a desert rock.
We give you thanks for the water of baptism.
In being joined with Christ,
we die to what destroys
and are raised to new life with Christ.
As streams rush into rivers,
may our lives flow into yours,
joining your creative work for a world in need.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.



+ PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

Children of God, we are the body of Christ.

By one spirit we were baptized into one body.

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace.

Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.



WORD



Raising of Tabitha -- Guercino, Hermitage, St. Petersburg, Russia

Acts 9:36-43

Peter in Lydda and Joppa

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. **37** At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. **38** Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, “Please come to us without delay.” **39** So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. **40** Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up.” Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. **41** He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. **42** This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. **43** Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God

Revelation 7:9-17 *(9-12 shown here)*

The Multitude from Every Nation

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. **10** They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12** singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Revelation 7:9-17 *(13-17 shown here)*

13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” **14** I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

16 They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**



PSALM 23


The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want 170

CRIMOND CM



Jessie Seymour Irvine, 1872

Harm. T. C. L. Pritchard, 1929


Scottish Psalter, 1650



1. The Lord's my Shep-herd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie
2. My soul He doth re - store a - gain; And me to walk doth make
3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear none ill;
4. My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence of my foes;



In pas - tures green; He lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.
With - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, E'en for His own name's sake.
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod And staff me com - fort still.
My head Thou dost with oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.



5. Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.

Music: Harmonization from *The Scottish Psalter*, 1929. Used by permission of Oxford

Jesus Is Rejected by the Jews

22 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, **23** and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. **24** So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” **25** Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; **26** but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. **27** My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. **29** What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. **30** The Father and I are one.”

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Sermon



Dorcas
St. Twrog's Church Maentwrog, Wales



Mourning Tabitha
Southwark Cathedral London, England



Dorcas (Tabitha)
Church of St. Nicholas Iford, England

Offering



[To make a gift to the ministry of PLUC click here.](#)

Ann Campbell

+ Offering and Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Great and loving God,
you gave not only your own Son
for our redemption,
but also the courage to give beyond what is careful,
and with the flourish of faith.
So, Lord, see us and our gifts
as true praise and thanksgiving.
Amen.



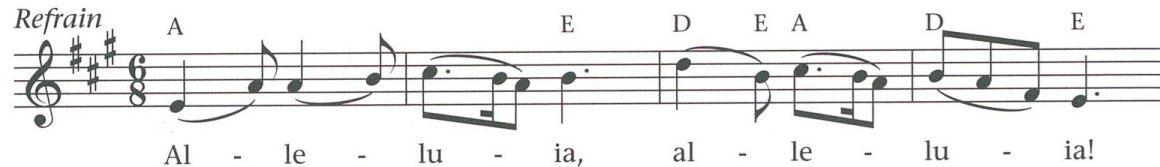
Ann Campbell

✚HYMN “Celtic Alleluia” #148 GREEN

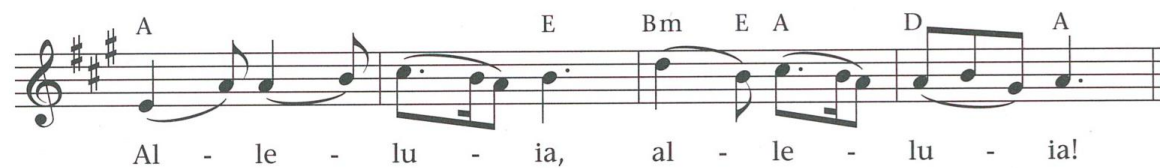
148

Celtic Alleluia

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Easter stanzas

1 Now he is liv - ing, the Christ.
2 He is the first fruits from death;
3 The right hand of God raised me up. The
4 The stone which the build - ers re - ject-ed, be -

Out of the tomb he is ris - en; he has con - quered death,
now are our lives filled with glo - ry! Dark-ness van - ish - es
hand of the Lord— has tri - umphed. I shall nev - er die,
comes— the cor - ner - stone cho - sen. Praise the work of God

o - pened heav - en to all be - liev - ers.
in the light— of his pow - er.
I shall live, tell - ing God's deeds.
for this mar - vel— in our eyes.—

Text and music: Fintan O'Carroll (1922-1981) and Christopher Walker (b. 1947)

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

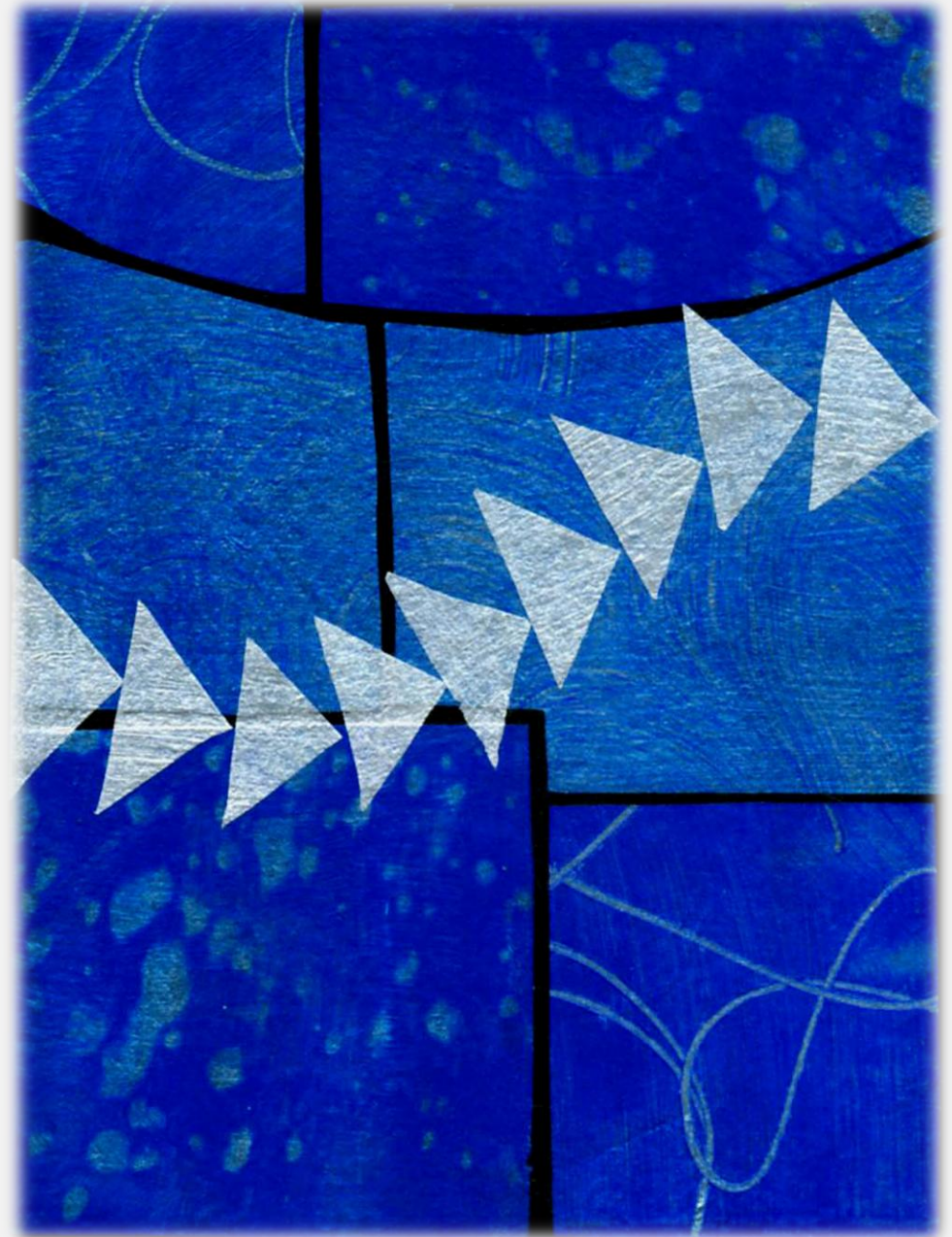


And Cleanse Me © Jan Richardson

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

ECUMENICAL

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.



Of Water and Spirit © Jan Richardson

✚HYMN “Go With Us Lord” #535 BLUE

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Go with Us, Lord

TALLIS' CANON LM

Mary Jackson Cathey, 1986

Thomas Tallis
Adapt. Parker's *Whole Psalter*, c. 1561

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is a simple, hymn-like tune. The lyrics are: "Go with us, Lord, and guide the way Through this and ev - ery com - ing day, That in Your Spir - it strong and true Our lives may be our gift to You." The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line. The score ends with a double bar line.

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way Through this and

ev - ery com - ing day, That in Your Spir - it

strong and true Our lives may be our gift to You.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Go forth to follow paths of righteousness;
go forth to follow paths of peace;
and may God's goodness and mercy
follow you as you serve the risen Lord.

May Christ the Good Shepherd
bless and guide you this day and always.



Until the Breath of God Breathes in Me © Jan Richardson

Postlude

Played in honor of Douglas Stuart, who requested the Navy Hymn be played on the Sunday following his passing.

Reflection

Psalm 23 affirms that God supplies our every need. How do our lives change when we trust this great promise of God?

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Thanks to

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland
Musician: Susie Byykkonen
Greeter: Lois Jambekar
Reader: Nancy Byers Sprague
Prayer: Rev. Peter Norland
Coffee: The Norland's
Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen

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Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1400 East Houghton Avenue, Houghton Michigan 49931
www.PLUC.org office@pluc.org (906)482-5224

Rooted in the Trinity. Growing in God's Word.
Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.

Visio Divina

Photos by

Ann Campbell
Sherry Middlemis-Brown
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Artwork

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