

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

Pre-Service Music: *Through It All* – Andrae Crouch/Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude: *O Perfect Love* – Stan Pethel

Introit #679: *Let the Whole Creation Cry* (all) Chancel Choir

Responsive Call to Worship/Prayer of the Day (Psalm 148)

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God on high!

Praise God, sun and moon.

Praise God, all you shining stars!

Praise God from the earth, you sea monsters and ocean depths!

**Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,
praise the Lord!**

Kings and all peoples of the earth, princes and all rulers of the earth, praise the Lord!

Old and young together; all people praise the Lord!

Prayer of the Day

Ever-present God, we give thanks that you have made your dwelling place among your people. We trust your promises of a just future, and we wish to play our part. Christ has taught us to love one another. Help us to keep this commandment in our minds and hearts, that we might come to realize the new heaven and new earth awaiting us. Amen.

Opening Hymn #301 *Let Us Build a House* v. 1,2,4,5 (stand)

Call to Confession

Because we are loved, we are called to turn to God in humility.

**We fall short of who God calls us to be,
but we are never forsaken.**

In faith and with confidence as beloved children,
let us confess our sin to God.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you command us to love one another, yet we hold grudges and refuse to work for peace. You command us to care for all of creation, yet we neglect the earth and abuse nature through carelessness. You command us to walk in the ways of Jesus, yet we too often walk our own way. Forgive us, O God. Guide us as we work toward a new heaven here on earth. Lead us to reconciliation and a vision for your beloved community, as we share your love with your people everywhere.

Declaration of Pardon

Believe the good news:

Jesus loves us and forgives us and sets us free.

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Glory to God #583

Anthem: *For the Beauty of the Earth* John Rutter

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Worship leader will lead the prayers.

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all of those in need.

Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior, who taught us to pray.

**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 #81 *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken.* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

**Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept you Word.
Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we
may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ
our Lord. Amen.**

Scriptures for the Day:

First Lesson: Acts 11:1 – 18

Second Lesson: Revelation 21: 1-8

Gospel Lesson: John 13:31-35

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Restoration and Reconciliation* Jonathan Kimball

Affirmation of Faith: John Birch-www.faithandworship.com

By faith I gaze up to the heavens and know within its vastness that this is your creation planned and effected within eternity.

By faith I pluck an ear of corn and know within its symmetry lies the chemistry of life the potential of creation within my hand.

By faith I listen for your voice and know the whisper that I hear, breathed a world into existence yet listens to the prayer within my soul.

**By faith I strive to do your will and know the door
that I approach may lead me to shadows where my
role is to become your light.**

**By faith I cling to your word and know the strength
that I receive has its source within the love that is at
the center of all things.**

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings: (please be seated)

Offering #712: *As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought v. 3*

Prayer of Dedication: John Birch-www.faithandworship.com

**Help us to be generous givers, dear Lord, both of
our money and our lives, that we might make a
difference in this town. We ask this through your
son, our Saviour Jesus Christ who gave all that he
was that we might know life in all its fullness. Amen.**

Sending Hymn #634: *To God Be the Glory* (stand)

Charge and Benediction: John Birch-www.faithandworship.com

(remain standing)

The love of God be the passion in your heart.
The joy of God your strength when times are hard .
The presence of God a peace that overflows.
The Word of God the seed that you might sow.

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

Choral Benediction: *Go Forth Into the World in Peace*

J. Rutter

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