



5th Sunday of Easter
May 15, 2022
10:30 A.M.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, light of the minds that know you, life of the souls who love you, strength of the thoughts that seek you: help us so to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may fully serve you, whose service is the perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

(Book of Common Worship, p. 360)

PRELUDE

Solemn Melody

Walford Davies (1869-1941)

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

stand for

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Matthew 13: 44-52)

To come into God's presence is to enter a world of parables, and to meet the One who tells them.

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid;

then in their joy they sell all they have to buy that field.

The realm of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;

On finding one pearl of great price, the merchant sells everything else to buy it.

Every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of God

is like the householder who brings out of her treasure what is new and what is old.

We live in a world where the wheat and the tares grow together:

In the Lord's light, may we tell one from the other.

Let us worship God.

HYMN 551 - IN PROCESSION

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

1. Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home;
2. All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to God's praise to yield;
3. For the Lord our God shall come, And shall take the har - vest home;
4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To Thy fi - nal har - vest home;

All is safe - ly gath - ered in, Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown;
From each field shall in that day All of - fens - es purge a - way;
Gath - er Thou Thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin;

God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied:
First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear:
Give the an - gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
There for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In Thy pres - ence to a - bide:

Come to God's own tem - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.
But the fruit - ful ears to store In God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come, with all Thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

be seated for

CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist

Friends, we sometimes think of the right word too late, and miss the moment. We offer prayers of confession to be in sync with the movement of your Spirit, so we do not miss ourselves. Let us pray together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of wonders, we accept too much the tyranny of normal life. We prefer strong drink to strong belief. We idolize success with money, and are skeptical of almost all other values. We do not question terrible inequalities; we blame the needy for their desperation; we resent having to imagine new ways to serve your purposes. Temper our defensiveness and desire for control. We begrudge the optimists their happiness, and write off the pessimists for their negativity. Give us habits of the heart to steady us in your love, that we not over-react to neediness in others and ourselves, lest we become blamers and self-dramatizers. Forgive us when we choose the easy path and miss the narrow gate that leads to life.

There follows a moment of silence for prayers of confession.

KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God's Spirit brings order to our unruly wills, brings caring to our desires, and gives us the grace to love the path of right. In the name of Christ the healer, we are forgiven, renewed, and restored.

stand for

GLORIA PATRI

Traditional liturgical text
Scottish Chant

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

be seated for

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of all knowledge, help us to understand our places in your on-going creation story; help each of us find the saving knowledge that illuminates our lives. In the Spirit of your Son, our teacher, Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 31: 1-12

Liturgist

ANTHEM

Beati quorum via

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Beati quorum via integra est: Qui ambulant in lege Domini.

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Psalm 119:1

SERMON
Iosso

"Getting out of God's Way"

Rev. Christian

There follows a moment of silence for reflection

stand for

HYMN OF RESPONSE 293

This Is My Father's World

TERRA BEATA

1. This is my Fa-ther's world, And to my lis-tening ears All
2. This is my Fa-ther's world: Oh, let me ne'er for - get That

na - ture sings, and round me rings The mu - sic of the spheres.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world: I rest me in the thought Of
This is my Fa-ther's world: The bat - tle is not done; Je -

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the won - ders wrought.
sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, And earth and heayen be one.

be seated for

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PURPLE RIBBON LIST

5/05	Lee Jordan Bulter	30	M	Black	5/10	Chone Cummings	25	M	Black
5/09	Kennond Taylor	39	M	Black	5/10	Austin Hammond	1	M	Black

We hang a purple ribbon on the Park Avenue side of our building to remind us to pray for the victims, survivors, and perpetrators of these acts of violence in Baltimore City. If you would like to join in putting up a ribbon after worship, please signal an usher.

THE 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.

OFFERTORY

See invitation to give in the Chat Box on Zoom and Facebook Live.

If you wish to give online via our website, use this link - [Giving and Stewardship](#)

If you would like to give your offering by mail, please send to the church office. Offerings are processed weekly.

AT THE OFFERTORY

Hallelujah Chorus (from *Mount of Olives*)

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Hallelujah! unto God's Almighty Son.

Praise the Lord, ye bright angelic choirs, in holy songs of joy.

Come, proclaim His grace and glory!

stand for

DOXOLOGY 591

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION written by Phil Adams

Liturgist

Glorious God, creator of humanity and our universe, we praise your name and relish the life we have in your beloved Kingdom. Help us devote these offerings, our attention, and our creativity to programs in which we can participate in the giving and receiving of love, hospitality, and mercy. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, your holy gift to humankind. Amen.

remain standing for

HYMN OF SENDING 361

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

1. How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
4. "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,

Is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
The riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
For I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
The flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign

To you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
And sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
Thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

Fanfare for Organ

Ronald Arnatt (1930-2018)

It is the custom of this congregation to remain in the sanctuary for the postlude. Those wishing to exit may do so.

Grace and joy to all who have joined us in worship!
Please join us for fellowship in Reid Chapel.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Christian Iosso, *Interim Pastor*
Dr. Jason Kissel, *organist & conductor*

Martha Armenti, *liturgist*
Jim Schroll and Mike Johnson, *ushers*

THE FIRST & FRANKLIN SANCTUARY CHOIR

Anne Culbertson	Brian Horne	Laura Oldham	Steve Roach	Sandra Smith	Rachel Walsh
Jake Elfner	Donald Juedes	Meredith Piplani	Doug Savin	Jan Trammell-Savin	
Zhenya Gnezdilova	John McLucas	Lauren Redditt	Betty Schroll	Randy Veale	
Jim Harvey	Alex Mendelsohn	Daveen Rim	Marianne Shick	Chris Wallace	

ABOUT FIRST & FRANKLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

STAFF

Rev. Christian Iosso, Ph.D., *Interim Pastor*
Jason Kissel, DMA, *Minister of Music & Organist*
Tiarra Rush, *Administrative Assistant*
Victorious Schwarz, *Financial Secretary*
Deborah McCrimmon, *Director of Christian Arts & Education*
George Meagher, *Sexton*
Aaron Houston, *Audio Engineer*

SESSION

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Marianne Shick	John McLucas	Allie Pyan
Sarah Lloyd	Joan Gordon	Paul Fowler
Vacant	Becca Hollaway	Alex Mendelsohn

DEACONS

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Nusrat David	Marla Holt	Michael Johnson
Muddassar Iqbal	Randolph Veale	Anne Culbertson

NOTICES

Our weekly email and monthly newsletter contain longer announcements and opportunities for witness and service. If you would like to receive our Weekly eblast emails and other communications, please contact the office with your email address or use the Contact Form on our website, firstfranklin.org

ADULT EDUCATION | 9:15 A.M. - 10:15 A.M. IN BACKUS HOUSE

Please join us before service every Sunday for adult education in Backus House or via zoom.

Interim Minister Chris Iosso is leading the Forum on the 15, 22, and 29, with hand-outs related to the Mission Study.

Click: [ADULT EDUCATION](#) | Meeting ID: 831 0513 8968 | Passcode: 233825

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACEMAKING COMMITTEE

Next Sunday we will celebrate the 40th Anniversary (+ 2) of the Peacemaking Committee in the service and in a chapel luncheon afterward. Please RSVP as the luncheon will be catered: Information@firstfranklin.org

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DOROTHY JANZEN

A memorial service celebrating the life of church member Dorothy Janzen will be held on **Saturday, June 18, 2022 at 12 noon**. A reception will follow in Reid Memorial Chapel.

INVITATION TO JOIN THE “TABLE GUILD”

The Worship, Music, & Arts Committee of Session is recruiting volunteers to prepare the Sanctuary (and occasionally the Chapel) for worship services. Please consider prayerfully if this might be a way for you to support the beauty, order, and dignity of our worship at First & Franklin.

*Your generous donation supports the ministries, mission work, and operations of First & Franklin.
Please consider making your donation a recurring, monthly donation. Scan the QR code to donate.*

