

The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church
3rd Sunday After Easter | 11:00 AM | May 4, 2025

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

Blessed Assurance
arr. Tyzen Hsiao

Carolyn Hancock
Violin

*INTROIT

Joyful, Joyful
arr. Johnnie Carl

The Chancel Choir
HYMN TO JOY

ALL SINGING: PLEASE STAND

*Joyful, Joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love.
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Charles Robinson
Minister of Nurture

*HYMN 325

Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus

IN BABILONE

*INVITATION, CONFESSION, & PARDON

Rev. Robinson and **People**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Let us pray together:

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

**We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

MEINEKE

**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. Amen. Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Robinson and **People**

Offer one another signs of reconciliation and love:

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

OFFERTORY

Dona Nobis Pacem (A prayer for peace)
Giulio Caccini, arr. James A. Moore

The Chancel Choir
Savannah Cathey, Soprano
Carolyn Hancock, Violin

Dona nobis pacem
Translation: Grant us peace.

*DOXOLOGY

OLD 100th

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.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

The Rev. Kaylen Short
Senior Minister

*Children are invited to return to seats after Children's Moment.
No Wonders of Worship today as we celebrate Communion together.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rev. Lawrence

**God of victory,
your Son revealed himself again and again,
and convinced his followers of his glorious resurrection.
Grant that we may know his risen presence,
and care for all his flock,
until we join the hosts of heaven in worshipping you and praising him. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 9:1-20

Rev. Lawrence

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹

and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Paul and Ananias"

Rev. Short

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves
in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.

...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us 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 trespasses, as we for-
give those who trespass 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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Gluten-free elements are available upon request at the chancel.

You are invited to contribute to the Benevolence Fund by leaving an offering
on the chancel rail. These funds are used to assist those in need.

*HYMN 369

Blessed Assurance

ASSURANCE

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Short

All singing

**May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever;
grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see His face and His grace forever!
May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.**

***POSTLUDE**

Tocatta on We Will Glorify
Twila Paris/Fred Bock

Nicholas Bowden
Director of Music & Organist

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

Please remember in your prayers:

Van Askew
Linda Brannon
Nancy Byers
Karen Davis

Martha Hale
Tangie Hubbard
Jerry Light
Bettina McDowell

Ron McDowell
Ingrid Shields
Brenda Tierman
Pete Towell

Paul Wiley

In Memoriam
Barbara Williams
April 25, 2025

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with

Joshua Williams and Alpha Williams upon the death of their grandmother, Barbara (Bobbie) Williams, on April 25.

The flowers in the sanctuary last week were presented to the glory of God
and in memory of Jimmy Tucker by Jan Tucker.

The rosebud on the sanctuary altar is presented to the glory of God
and in celebration of the birth of Theodore Lucas West on April 25. Parents are Rev. Drew and Amanda West.

Mother's Day
Recognitions
Due May 5

Graduation Sunday
May 18

Vacation Bible School
Road Trip
June 2-6

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WEEKENDER



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Scripture quotations from New Revised Standard Version
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AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays, Wednesdays,
Fridays, Saturdays 7 PM; Thursdays, 7:30 AM
NA Meeting: Thursdays 7:30 PM

QR Code for
GIVING



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