

**BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**10:30 a.m. Sunday 3 May 2026**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**ENTRANCE**

Prelude and Lighting of Candles (including Christ Candle)

Announcements: *(To help us connect, please sign  
the attendance pad in your pew)*

\*Greeting\*\*:  
Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life.  
**Those who believe in me, even though they die,  
will live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in me  
will never die.**"

\*Praise Choruses: Eight hymns in eight minutes

\*Opening Prayer\*\*:

O God, our grove, our lover, our well:  
In the resurrection of your Son you have brought us  
into your garden.

**Marry us for now and for ever, and give us to eat  
from the tree of life;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen. Alleluia.**  
*(Ezek.47:12; Isa. 5:l; Jn.4:14)*

\*Opening Hymn: 60 "I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath"

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Prayer for Illumination: Page 6

First Lesson: Acts 7:55-60

Psalter: *(Insert: Alternate leader, people)* Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:2-10

\*Hymn of Preparation: 172 "My Jesus, I Love Thee"

(2)

\*Gospel Lesson: John 14:1-14

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith: 885: "A Modern Affirmation

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

Children's Time

\*The Peace: Let us offer one another signs  
of reconciliation and love.  
The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION**

Invitation: As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer  
ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offering/Offertory

\*Doxology: 95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession^:

Our Refuge and our Rock, God of heaven and earth,  
you have saved your people by your steadfast love.  
**So, we come before you to sing our thanksgiving.**  
**You have given birth to your Church**  
**and have set Jesus Christ as the chief cornerstone.**  
**You have called us to be a chosen race, a holy nation**  
**and a royal priesthood.**  
**Knowing that you redeem us all, O Lord,**  
**we commend to you those**  
**who need your rescue this day**  
**from the assaults of illness and injury**  
**upon their bodies, their souls, and their spirits.**  
**Hear your people this day, O merciful God,**  
**and accept our offering of ourselves and our gifts,**

(3)

**For we pray in the Name of him who is the Way,  
the Truth, and the Life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SERVICE OF THE TABLE (Page 15ff)**

**All are welcome**

**SENDING FORTH**

\*Closing Hymn: 529 "How Firm a Foundation"

\*Blessing\*\*:  
May the presence of God the Creator  
give you strength;  
**May the presence of God the Redeemer  
give you peace;**  
May the presence of God the Sustainer  
give you comfort.  
**May the presence of God the Sanctifier  
give you love. Amen**

*(United Methodist Clergywomen's Consultation, U.S.A.,  
20th Cent., Alt.)*

\*Extinguishing of Candles (including Christ Candle) and Postlude

**\*Going Forth**

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\*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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