

# THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**May 18, 2025**

**10:00 a.m.**

\* All who are able may stand

Congregation reads aloud the **BOLD** print

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Eric Markman (he/him)

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Psalm 148)

Cynthia Miller

One: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**ALL: PRAISE HIM, ALL HIS ANGELS; PRAISE HIM, ALL HIS HOST!**

One: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

**ALL: PRAISE THE LORD FROM THE EARTH, YOU SEA MONSTERS AND ALL DEEPS, FIRE AND HAIL, SNOW AND FROST, STORMY WIND FULFILLING HIS COMMAND!**

**MOUNTAINS AND ALL HILLS, FRUIT TREES AND ALL CEDARS! WILD ANIMALS AND ALL CATTLE, CREEPING THINGS AND FLYING BIRDS! KINGS OF THE EARTH AND ALL PEOPLES, PRINCES AND ALL RULERS OF THE EARTH!**

One: Young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

## \*HYMN NO. 15

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

vs. 1-4

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**ALL: CREATING AND LOVING GOD, YOUR WORDS HAVE BEEN SPOKEN ACROSS THE CENTURIES AND FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION. WE NEED TO ADMIT THAT THOUGH WE HAVE HEARD YOUR CALL, OUR MINDS WANDER AWAY FROM YOUR CALL TO OTHER MATTERS.**

**WE SEE PEOPLE IN DESPERATE NEED, BUT DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. WE SEE A WORLD DIVIDED AND BROKEN LIKE A MIRROR SMASHED INTO A THOUSAND PIECES, AND AS WE STARE AT THAT MIRROR, WE SEE OUR IMAGE ALSO BROKEN LIKE THE GLASS. WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

*(cont'd)*

**PLEASE PUT US TOGETHER AGAIN. HELP US TO LISTEN WITH OPEN EARS, TO BELIEVE WITH A STRONG MIND, AND TO ACT TO BRING YOUR LIGHT INTO OUR WORLD. TRULY FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD. WE HAVE LET OUR SPIRITS WANE, AND OUR HEARTS WANDER.**

**BRING US BACK TO TRUE LIFE AND TRUE SERVICE THROUGH OUR LOVE FOR YOUR SON. GIVE US STRENGTH TO ACT AND A DEPTH OF COMPASSION TO BE NEW PEOPLE SEEKING JUSTICE IN OUR WORLD AND A MESSAGE OF HOPE ON OUR TONGUES.**

*[Time of silent prayer]*

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**One:** It is Christ who came into our world to seek us and even when we are lost, he comes to us and reaches out in love. Our patience is finite, but his is not. Like the sheep that has strayed from the ninety-nine, we are sought after and loved. Like the prodigal son we are always welcomed home. As we come to Jesus and open our hearts and confess our deepest secrets, we are both forgiven and always deeply loved.

**ALL: IN CHRIST JESUS WE ARE FORGIVEN!**

**\*RESPONSE** (all sing)      *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*      **NO. 582**

**GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME,  
AND TO THE SON, WHOSE GRACE HAS PARDONED ME,  
AND TO THE SPIRIT, WHOSE LOVE HAS SET ME FREE.  
AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW AND EVER SHALL BE. AMEN.  
WORLD WITHOUT END, WITHOUT END. AMEN.  
WORLD WITHOUT END, WITHOUT END. AMEN.  
WORLD WITHOUT END, WITHOUT END. AMEN.  
AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW AND EVER SHALL BE. AMEN.**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE**

**One:** The Peace of Christ be with you!

**ALL: AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

*[Turn to those around you and share with them words and signs of peace.]*

**WONDERING TIME**

**Christina Pressley (she/her)**

*[Following Wondering Time, children & youth leave to attend J.A.M. or Sunday Seekers.*

*This will be the final Sunday for J.A.M. and Sunday Seekers this school year.]*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**ALL: OPEN OUR EARS O LORD, OPEN OUR MINDS DEAR LORD, PREPARE OUR HEARTS LOVING REDEEMER, THAT WE MAY HEAR YOUR WORDS. THAT WE MAY TAKE THOSE WORDS INTO OUR HEARTS. THAT YOUR WORDS WILL CHANGE US, ENERGIZE US, AND SEND US BACK OUT INTO THE WORLD AS NEW PEOPLE TO LIVE THE CALL THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN US. IN YOUR SON’S NAME, AMEN.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS      Acts 9:1-20, John 13:31-35 (NRSV)

One: This is the word of our Lord.

**ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

SERMON      *“Blinding Light, New Insight”*    Pastor Eric Markman (he/him)

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH      from the *Confession of 1967 PC(USA)*

**ALL: THROUGH OUR FAITH WE ARE CALLED TO A NEW WAY TO LIVE. THE NEW LIFE FINDS ITS DIRECTION IN THE LIFE OF JESUS, HIS DEEDS AND WORDS, HIS STRUGGLES AGAINST TEMPTATION, HIS COMPASSION, HIS ANGER, AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO SUFFER DEATH. THE TEACHING OF APOSTLES AND PROPHETS GUIDES MEN AND WOMEN IN LIVING THIS LIFE, AND THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NURTURES AND EQUIPS THEM FOR THEIR MINISTRIES.**

**THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH ARE EMISSARIES OF PEACE AND SEEK THE GOOD OF ALL IN COOPERATION WITH POWERS AND AUTHORITIES IN POLITICS, CULTURE, AND ECONOMICS. BUT THEY HAVE TO FIGHT AGAINST PRETENSIONS AND INJUSTICES WHEN THESE SAME POWERS ENDANGER HUMAN WELFARE. THEIR STRENGTH IS IN THEIR CONFIDENCE THAT GOD’S PURPOSE RATHER THAN HUMAN SCHEMES WILL FINALLY PREVAIL. AMEN**

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY      I Waited for the Lord (from *Hymn of Praise*)      F. Mendelssohn  
Chancel Choir; Sujung Wang, Bettye Shirar – soloists

I waited for the Lord; He inclined unto me.

He heard my complaint.

O blessed are they that hope and trust in the Lord.

\*RESPONSE (all sing)

*Give Thanks*

NO. 647

**GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART; GIVE THANKS TO THE HOLY ONE;**

**GIVE THANKS BECAUSE WE'RE GIVEN JESUS CHRIST, THE SON (*Repeat*)**

**AND NOW LET THE WEAK SAY, "WE ARE STRONG;" LET THE POOR SAY,**

**"WE ARE RICH BECAUSE OF WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE FOR US!" (*Repeat*)**

**GIVE THANKS. GIVE THANKS.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN NO. 451

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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**Welcome visitors!** We're glad you're here today. If you'd like to learn more about what's happening at Concord, how you can get involved, or how we can help or support you, fill out one of the Connection Cards in the pew with your contact information. You can place the card in the offering or give it to a greeter as you leave. The peace of Christ be with you.

**The flowers today** are given to the glory of God by Margot Lamar in memory of Stan and all the family that preceded.

## J.A.M. Session



(Jesus and Me!)

After Wondering Time, children in grades K-5 are invited to follow the J.A.M. leaders to the Sunday School hallway where they are led through activities and crafts provided in the PC(USA) lectionary curriculum, *Feasting on the Word*, that are in response to the scripture shared during the service. **This will be the final Sunday this school year for J.A.M. and Sunday**

**Seekers.** Beginning next Sunday, May 25, children will remain in worship with their families following Wondering Time. With their parent, children are invited to make use of books and quiet activities provided in the back of the sanctuary.

## CONCORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1800 FAIRFAX BLVD.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19803

(302) 654-9652

[www.concordpc.org](http://www.concordpc.org) [info@concordpc.org](mailto:info@concordpc.org) Guest Wi-Fi: *ConcordGuest*

The Rev. Eric Markman, Pastor (603) 770-3239 [pastoreric@concordpc.org](mailto:pastoreric@concordpc.org)

Assisting in the service of worship are:

Deacon-in-Charge: Liz Rowe

Liturgist: Cynthia Miller

Livestream Team: Bob Brown, Ron McKinney, A.T. Moffett, Melanie Slezak



**Today following worship**  
**11:00am - 12:15pm - Church parking lot**  
**\$10 donation toward Massanetta MS**  
**Conference & Youth Mission Days**

**Why not grab some lunch while you wait?\***  
Hot Dogs -\$2, Water-\$1, Chips-\$1, Cookies-\$1  
(\$5 for all)

**\*Hot dog lunch will also be served at Lunch  
& Learn for \$5 donation. Thank you!**



**LUNCH & LEARN – HOUSING, ADVOCACY, AND CONCORD**  
**Today following worship in Jessie's Room**  
**Guest Speaker Rabbi Sonya Starr - Policy Director,**  
**Housing Alliance Delaware**  
**Housing Issues in Legislature. How to Advocate.**  
**May 22 Day For Housing.**

Concord has helped souls who are facing homelessness for many years, through our ministry with Friendship House, Emmanuel Dining Room, and Sojourners Place. A shortage of safe, affordable housing is one of the biggest issues facing the U.S. Bigger and lasting improvements require changes in

governmental policies.

**This series supports Day for Housing 2025 | HAD Site in Dover**  
**Thursday, May 22 to advocate for solutions to the housing crisis,**  
**organized by Housing Alliance Delaware.**

**Greetings, Greeters!**

We need your help to welcome worshipers, assist in receiving the offering, & straighten up the pews following worship. Families & friends are always welcome to serve as greeters together; only one person needs to sign up. To volunteer online, visit

[www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B4DA9AB2EA2F94-greeterusher#/](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B4DA9AB2EA2F94-greeterusher#/)



## Farewell to Dennis

As many of you may know, Dennis Yoder, our facilities manager, was planning to retire at the end of May. That was before he was sidelined by a serious cardiac condition. He has been out on leave since March 24 and during that time has been in and out of the hospital. We hope his situation is under control now and that he will regain his health.

Dennis has been with us since January 2023. In that time, he took excellent care of our building and grounds and was proactive in finding maintenance concerns and anticipating problems before they got worse. He was an invaluable to the church and preschool.

Out of concern for his health, we will not hold a farewell event for him, but we will collect a purse to say 'thank you' and to wish him well in retirement. If you would like to contribute, you can [donate online](#) or by check to Concord. No matter how you donate, please indicate it is for "Dennis - retirement." Please have your donations in by May 23. In addition, there will be cards in the back of the church May 18 and 25 if you would like to sign one or add a note to thank Dennis.

*Staff Relations: Marj Johnson, Nancy Tucker, Jan Moore*



## CONCORD VBS 2025

July 28-August 1

**\*For children ages 3-9 years old**

**Drop-off:** 9:00-9:15am in the Preschool Gym

**VBS Camp:** 9:15am-12:00pm (pick up at 12:00pm)

### Fee:

- Registered for Concord Preschool Summer Camp?  
*No fee* – VBS is part of your child's summer camp experience!
- **VBS Only** – \$30 per child/\$75 for 3 or more siblings  
(scholarships available) 😊

[Registration for "VBS only" campers is available here.](#)

Questions? Contact Christina Pressley, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries for Concord Church and Preschool: [concord.christinap@gmail.com](mailto:concord.christinap@gmail.com)

