

Pitching a Tent Among Us

Eastertide | Sunday, May 18, 2025

MEDITATION

“There is in the soul a something in which God dwells, and there is in the soul a something in which the soul dwells in God.”— Meister Eckhart

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

L: And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **P: And also with you.**

PRELUDE

“Come to Me, O Weary Traveler”

Music: William P. Rowan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Thomas, Deacon

L: Come, all who are weary and wondering—

All: We come, seeking signs of life and hope.

L: God is not far off in a distant heaven—

All: God pitches a tent and dwells among us.

L: Not to erase our tears, but to hold them.

All: Not to escape the world, but to love it more deeply.

L: The New Jerusalem is not above us—it is among us.

All: Even now, God is making all things new.

L: So, let us worship the One who weeps with us, walks with us, and calls us to rise.

All: With open hearts, we come to worship God.

*SONG OF REJOICING

“Rejoice in the Lord Always” 2x

In Pew

RESPONSIVE OPENING PRAYER

Linda Thomas, Deacon

L: Holy and Loving God, you have not abandoned us to chaos or despair.

All: You pitch your tent in the midst of our lives, joining us in our joy and sorrow, our tears and laughter, our questions and our faith.

L: Even when we cannot see the way forward, you move with us.

All: Even when we cannot feel your presence, you do not leave.

L: Let this time of worship be a dwelling place for your Spirit.

All: O Gracious One, come close. Speak gently.

L: Wipe the tears from our eyes and awaken us again to the power of resurrection not as escape, but as love made visible.

All: In the name of Jesus, who wept and rose again, we pray. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“God is Truly With Us”

Black 68

WORD FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Lisa Allen

ANTHEM

“O Will Exalt You, O My Lord”

Choir

Words: Psalm 30, Music: Aaron David Miller

GOSPEL READING | John 11:28-36, p. 128

Chris Polloni, Deacon

NEW TESTAMENT READING | Revelation 21:1-6a, p. 315

Scott Burk

L: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

“Pitching a Tent Among Us”

Rev. Christina Williams

***RESPONSIVE HYMN**

“O Holy City, Seen of John”

Black 613

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

During the prayers of the people, you are invited to voice your joys and concerns out loud. When names are spoken, all invited to respond, “O Lord, hear our prayers.”

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

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 forgive 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. All are invited to sing “Amen”. (Black 812)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC “He's Got the Whole World in His Hands” *Cherub Choir Iyanu & Bella*
African American traditional

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love had done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Generous God, you make your home among us—and so we offer these gifts as signs of our shared dwelling. Not to build temples far away, but to raise up love here and now. Use these offerings to water the seeds of compassion, to shelter the vulnerable, to shine your light through our hands and hearts. May what we give and how we live today be part of the New Jerusalem already stirring among us. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Shall We Gather at the River”

Black 597

***BENEDICTION**

L: Go now, beloved of God—not to escape the world, but to live in it more fully.

All: For God dwells with us, even here.

L: Go with courage, to cry and to hope, to heal and to rise.

All: For God wipes away our tears and calls us to new life.

L: Go in peace. Go in love.

All: We go in hope, for Love lives among us. Amen.

SUNG BENEDICTION

“Goodness is Stronger than Evil”

Choir

From an African Prayer Book

POSTLUDE

“The Holy City”

Music: F.E. Weatherly & Stephen Adams

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Many thanks to the volunteers who enriched our morning together!

Deacon, Linda Thomas; Tech Deacon, Amelia Allen; Choir, Kay Clark, Linda Thomas, Joyce Kenneally, Meg Tivey, Alan King and Chris Polloni; Cherub Choir Bella & Iyanu; Reader, Scott Burk; Hospitality & Food donation, Marylaine & Dave Hobson

NEW HERE TODAY?

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here!

To help you navigate Sunday mornings with us, please see the guide below.

1. **Order of Worship:** **An asterisk means stand in body or spirit. **Bold text** is spoken in unison.*
 2. **Kid's Connection:** *After the "Word for all God's children," the children leave worship for a time learning and fun with Bible stories, crafts, and games with Lisa Allen.*
 3. **TAKE TWO** *is an adult faith formation group that meets after worship with Lisa Allen. A new discussion on "Faith as We Age" will meet again next Sunday.*
 4. **Coffee and Conversation:** *You are welcome to gather with us after worship to meet some new friends in the Covenant Room, down the hall on the right.*
 5. **Have Questions?** *Please reach out to Rev. Christina or the Deacon of the day.*
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**The altar flowers are given by Winthrop Frame in loving memory
of his parents Ann and Charles.**