

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
34 South Main Street
Rochester NH 03867



June 1, 2025

*HOLY COMMUNION
FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER*

(†) *The congregation will please stand as able*
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds

THE CHURCH GATHERS

Silent Prayer and Time for Centering

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP ***

God's faithful love endures for ever and ever.

**Because of God's everlasting goodness,
we offer God our thanks and praise.**

God's faithful love endures for ever and ever.

**Because of God's care and concern for humanity,
we offer God our thanks and praise.**

God's faithful love endures for ever and ever.

**Because of God's transforming powers and actions,
we gather as a community of faith and trust in God—
and we offer God our thanks and praise. Amen.**

For the Beauty of the Earth

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1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
 2. For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,
 4. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5. For thy church, that ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,
 6. For thy - self, best Gift Di - vine, to the world so free - ly given,

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies;
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light;
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight;
 friends on earth and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild;
 of - fer - ing up - on ev - ery shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love;
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven:

Refrain

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.
 * Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

*For Holy Communion

WORDS: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864
 MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. by W. H. Monk, 1861

DIX
 77.77.77

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† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving God,

**we have allowed the worries of this world
to drive us away from your vision for our lives.**

**We often have taken our focus off your Word,
and we have not allowed your Word
to work in our lives,**

**Grant understanding and wisdom
that we may see your vision
and apply it in our lives.**

**Hear our prayer, O God,
and call us back to you.**

† WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The scriptures tell us that God's love will find us
no matter how far away we are from the Word.

Just as Jesus found Zacchaeus hiding in a tree,
God will find us and bring us home
because we still belong to God.

This is the good news of the Gospel!

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

OLD TESTAMENT READING [1 Chronicles 29:10-16](#) (Pg. 336) **

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM: Look At the World

John Rutter (b. 1945-)

Look at the world, everything all around us
look at the world and marvel everyday.
Look at the world: so many joys and wonders,
So many miracles along our way.

*Praise to thee, O Lord for all creation.
Give us thankful hearts that we may see
All the gifts we share, and every blessing,
All things, come of thee.*

Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower,
look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain,
Look at the hills, look at the trees and mounts,
valley and flowing river, field and plain.

Think of the Spring, think of the warmth of summer,
bringing the harvest before the winter's cold.
Everything grows, everything has a season,
till it is gathered to the Fathers' fold;

Every good gift, all that we need and cherish.
Comes from the Lord in token of his love,
We are his hands, stewards of all his bounty,
his is the earth and his the heavens above.

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A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

***HYMN OF PREPARATION**

Refrain (Unison)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord, Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name!

Harmony

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth;
3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

to Refrain

He is the King of cre - a - tion.
Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
Now we shall live for - ev - er.
joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

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GOSPEL LESSON: [Luke 19:1-10](#) (Pg. 854) *

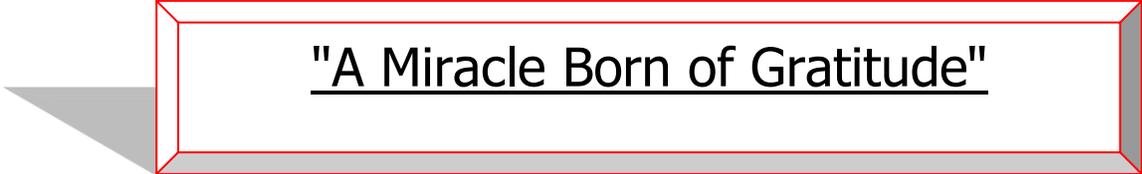
For the word of God in Scripture,
For the word of God among us,
For the word of God within us,
Thanks be to God!

† CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

ALLELUIA – Philip Stopford

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SERMON



"A Miracle Born of Gratitude"

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

*HYMN

Zacchaeus Was a Tax Man

AURELIA

Zacchaeus was a tax man who one day climbed a tree,
for he was short in stature and said he could not see.

And yet he had a problem that mattered even more:
he didn't see the suffering his greed had caused the poor.

O Lord, you saw Zacchaeus — so wealthy, yet alone.
You said, "Come down — and hurry! I'm coming to your home."
For you broke bread with sinners and saw within each one,
a person loved and treasured — God's daughter or God's son.

It wasn't just the treetop that helped Zacchaeus see;
Your love and welcome showed him how different life could be.
He said that he'd start over and work to make things fair;
He'd speak the truth, bring justice, and find new ways to share.

O Christ, you bid us welcome and help us all to see!
May we respond by building a just society.
Then children won't be hungry and all will share your bread.
Then those who now must struggle will live in joy instead.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER SONG

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

EL SENYOR ÉS LA MEVA FORÇA

Jacques Berthier

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four lines of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of music has a 3-measure rest at the beginning. The second line of music has a triplet of eighth notes in the final measure. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the
El Se - nyor és la me - va for - ça, el Se -

Lord I will re - joice! Look to God, do not be a -
nyor el me - u cant. Ell m ha es - tat la sal - va - ci -

fraid. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is
ó. En ell con - fi - o i no tinc

near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near.
por. En ell con - fi - o i no tinc por.

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SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER SONG (See Above)

[Presentation of Tithes and Offerings](#)

During this time, we are grateful for your continuing financial support of our ministries.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Unison



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;



praise God, all creatures here be - low:

Harmony

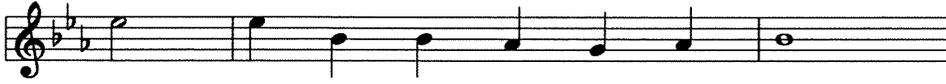


Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison



Praise God, the source of all our gifts!



Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts!

Refrain (Harmony)



Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978

MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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LASST UNS ERFREUEN

88.44.88 with Refrain

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Offertory Prayer:

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

(The Celebrant continues with the prayer for the season;)

..... *and all the company of heaven*

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Great Thanksgiving Setting D, TUMH pp.23-24

Sanctus

Carlton R. Young

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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..... *in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.....*

Memorial Acclamation

Carlton R. Young



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain!

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..... *all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.*

The Great Amen

Carlton R. Young



A - men, a - men, a - - - men.

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The Lord's Prayer

(UMH p. 895)

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Prayer Following Communion:

Eternal God,

we give you thanks for this holy mystery

in which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world

in the strength of your Spirit,

to give ourselves for others,

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

***HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 664**

Sent forth by God's Blessing

THE ASH GROVE

**1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
thy people of God from this dwelling take leave.**

**The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.**

**The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.**

**God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God's kingdom and answer the call.**

**2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.**

**Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race**

**With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.**

**Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.**

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BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Assisting with Worship today:

Liturgist: *Cynthia Sparks*

Video and Sound Engineer: *Sam Tweedy*

Altar Flowers:

Cover Image:

Tissot, James *Zaccheaeus in the Sycamore Awaiting the Passage of Jesus*, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56550> [retrieved May 29, 2025]. Original source: Brooklyn Museum part of the Creative Commons License.

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***Worship elements by Steve Garnass Holmes at *unfoldinglight.com*;

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Looking Ahead

Readings for June 8, 2025

Day of Pentecost

[Acts 2: 1-21 / Psalm 104: 24-35](#)

[Romans 8:14-17 / John 14:8-17](#)

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<http://www.firstumcrochester.org/>

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