Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025 9:00 a.m.

Welcome friends in Christ! We are glad you have come to worship today and to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ. We extend a warm greeting of Christian Fellowship to you. If you are visiting with us, please introduce yourself to the pastor following the service.

*Congregation standing for those who are able

The Words of Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Friendship pads and pass them back to the center aisle.

After worship please greet your neighbors by name.

Our Approach to God

Prelude Prélude Louis Vierne

The Call to Worship

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and praise him with music and song.

Come, sing to the Lord, for he has done marvelous things.

The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.

*The Hymn of Praise

Christ Is Alive!

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*The Call to Confession

God desires for all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. Trusting in God's love and compassion, let us confess our sins.

*The Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we praise you that Jesus Christ is alive. We praise you that in Christ the barriers that have separated humanity are torn down. We confess our slowness to open our hearts and minds to people who may be different from us. We confess the judgements we make and the grudges we hold. Deliver us from the sins of fear, prejudice, and exclusion. Forgive us for standing in your way as your

Spirit is at work. [Silent confession.] Lord, help us to be instruments of your love and messengers of your good news of salvation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

The good news is that Christ is alive! Everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. Know that your sins are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

*The Response

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

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Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name.

The Anthem

Jesus Shall Reign JuBELLation Choir Sandra Eithun

The Word of God

The Time with the Children

The New Testament Reading

Acts 11:1-18

page 1567

The Sermon

Standing in God's Way

Rev. Ruth Estell

Our Response to Serve

*The Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

hymnal, page 14

*The Hymn

Help Us Accept Each Other

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The Morning Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (using sins)

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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.

The Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

The Offertory Fairest Lord Jesus

The Chancel Choir

Martin How

*The Doxology Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow 592
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.

*The Prayer of Dedication

*The Hymn Called as Partners in Christ's Service 343

*The Charge and Benediction

*The Congregational Response Go with Us, Lord 535
Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
That in Your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to You.

Postlude Fanfare on McKee Matthew H. Cord

* Congregation Standing – for those who are able.

Liturgist: Connor Rousseau

Ushers: Deb & Ted Easlick, Larry Smith

Greeter: Karen Kalina

Fellowship Hour: Mary Smith

Musical Talents: Thomas Heidenreich – Director of Music Ministry, The Chancel

and JuBELLation Choirs.

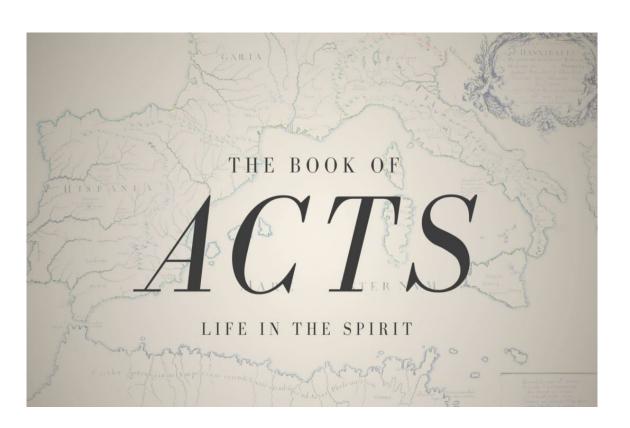
Please join us immediately following worship in the gathering area for fellowship hour.

The flowers today are in honor of all mothers of the congregation for Mother's Day given by Reid Calcott.

Songs and broadcast are covered by:
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Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603 Phone: (989) 792-1023 May 18, 2025



Seeking and Serving Christ. We are a Place for Growing Christians.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

For The Hearing Impaired

The service audio is being broadcast on 96.7-FM throughout the building and parking lot. Feel free to bring your pocket size radio, with headphones or earbuds, and listen to the service at an audio level that is more comfortable for you.



- The office is open Monday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) but, as unforeseen circumstances may occur, please call 989-792-1023 to be sure that someone is in the office before you drive to the church.
- The last day of Sunday school is TODAY with a celebration of a fantastic year!
- 2nd at Second will meet following worship TODAY and next Sunday, May 25. There are 2 lessons left, so this Sunday will be on Revelation: Envisioning God's Reality, & next Sunday will finish it up with The Quest for Unity in the New Testament.
- There will be a combined June & July newsletter. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, May 21.

Save the Date



The JuBELLation handbells will be performing a concert at Second Presbyterian Church on Sunday, June 8, at 4 PM. Please mark your calendar and look for more information soon.



National Foster Care Month is celebrated in May, and the Mission Committee has chosen to acknowledge this important subject by supporting "River Jordan, Inc.," located in Bay City, Michigan, and serving surrounding counties. River Jordan's mission statement reads: "to empower current and former foster youth to take responsibility of their own individual lives and become productive members of society." This is

particularly important to those youth 18-21 years of age who have "aged out" of foster care and require "a safety net," including shelter and support services. Pamphlets concerning River Jordan's mission and services will be available on the Mission table, and you may also explore their services online at **www.riverjordaninc.com** and view the YouTube video "I changed my story" of the founder's life story and how this organization came into being. There are volunteer opportunities (if interested, information and specifics found in website/pamphlet).

Summer Special Music



Would you like to help lead in worship this summer? This summer, while the choir is on break, I am looking for singers and instrumentalists to help with the special music. If you would like to play or sing during worship, please talk to me and we can arrange that. I am happy to accompany you, and can also help you find music if

you are interested but aren't quite sure what would be appropriate. —Thomas Heidenreich 513-746-8876 / music@spcsaginaw.org

Acts 11:1-18 New International Version

11 The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him ³ and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them."

⁴ Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. ⁶ I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. ⁷ Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'

⁸ "I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

⁹ "The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' ¹⁰ This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

¹¹ "Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. ¹² The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. ¹⁴ He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'

¹⁵ "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?"

¹⁸ When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life."