



**May 4, 2025 9:30 am**

**Co-Pastors: Rev. Ross Baker and Rev. Amanda Baker**

***Worship Musicians: Cheryl Doty, Abby Worley, & Pam McGuire***

***Ministry of Music: Jubilee Ringers***

***Offertory: Sarah Beth Pringle***

**Acolytes: Sadie Chanley & Madison Conley**

## **Third Sunday of Easter**

### **Gathering**

#### **Welcome**

Welcome to our KVOE listeners and to those watching online.

My name is **Sarah Beth Pringle**, and I am your worship reader this morning.

Welcome to Emporia First United Methodist Church. We are all beloved children of God.

Together, we are a Christian community committed to accepting, valuing, and loving all.

We seek to live, grow, and serve as Jesus taught us: loving one another, transforming lives, and making disciples.

Let us now worship.

#### **Prelude**

#### **Call to Worship**

***Sarah Beth Pringle***

**L:** Come, let us sing our songs of joy to the Lord!

**P:** **We will tell of God's power and victorious love!**

**L:** Let our voices be heard everywhere!

**P:** **Let our songs of praise never end!**

**L:** Let all the earth echo the songs of God's mighty love!

**P:** **Let us feel the strength of God coursing through us!**

**L:** Shout the good news!

**P:** **Christ is Alive! Christ calls us! Praise be to God!**

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3724/worship-connection-may-1-2022>

## Opening Prayer

*[Pastor Ross Baker]*

God of love, we bring our very selves to worship. Our triumphs. Our failures. Our vulnerabilities. Our greatest joys and our deepest sorrows. In this time set apart, may we hear the voice of Jesus urging us to feed and be fed, to love and be loved. Amen.

## Passing of the Peace

## Opening Hymn

*[Christ is Alive UMH 318](#)*

## Proclamation

## The Children Show Us the Way

*"Jesus Loves Me"*

**Children's Time-** Rev. Ross Baker

## Scripture Reading

John 21:1-19 NRSVUE

*[Sarah Beth Pringle](#)*

*21 After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. 2 Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. 3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.*

*4 Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." 6 He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. 7 That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.*

*9 When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." 11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.*

*15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."*

*Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. 18 Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." 19 (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."*

**The Word in Music**  
***"O Happy Day"*** - Jubilee Ringers  
Directed by Janine Henry

**Sermon**  
*[Rev. Amanda Baker]*  
***"Called to be Easter People"***

**Response**  
*[Open Our Eyes TFWS 2086](#)*  
**Prayers of the People**

We thank you, Redeeming God, for the glorious message that you bring new hope out of despair, resurrection out of defeat, new life out of death.

You call dry bones to dance. You give living water so that new life blossoms. You urge flowers to push their way through winter-hardened soil. We bring before you the dead and dried out places in our lives, that through your touch we may discover newness of life.

Forgotten dreams, lapsed intentions,  
Hardened resentments,  
Griefs to which we cling like children who cling to a worn but cherished toy or blanket: these we hand over to you, knowing that you will return them, mended, washed, renewed, transformed.

We bring before you the places in our lives and in our world where despair reigns unchallenged. With grief, we bring our concerns for the Middle East, for Ukraine, for Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and all the places in the world where the cycle of violence goes on and on.

Point us toward action, however small,  
Which leads to a more hopeful future  
For ourselves and for our world.

Gracious God, we thank you that you walk beside us as we journey through life. Because you are with us, we accept each new day, with its joys and sorrows, as a gift.

Because you are with us, we gain courage to meet the challenge of the day, choosing life and not death as we move through time. As you raised Jesus from the dead, raise us to new life day by day.

So we pray as Jesus taught us...

## Lord's Prayer

### Offering

*[Offertory Music: Sarah Beth Pringle, Flute  
"Night Winds" by Sandra Hahn]*

### Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow UMH #95*

### Prayer of Dedication

Great God of Heaven and Earth,  
You call us to leave behind our preoccupations  
and to follow you into the future.  
Sometimes we find your call challenging.  
We are comfortable, maybe even complacent, in our present.  
May this act of giving be a gesture of our willingness  
to follow where you lead.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

~ posted on the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan.  
<http://www.umfmichigan.org/offerprayers.html>

### Communion

*The Great Thanksgiving sung responses TFWS 2257a-c*

We will sing our *Take Our Bread* UMH #640 as people take communion.

### Announcements

### Benediction

Let us go from this place, casting the net of God's love wide.  
May we live our lives with the compassion and care of the one who includes all, the one  
who breathed the creation into being and looked around and declared it good.  
Very, very good. Go in peace to do likewise. **Amen.**

*Written by Sally Johnson, United Methodist Creation Justice Movement*

### Sending Forth Song

*"Trees of the Field"*  
TFWS 2279

**Postlude** - *Pam McGuire*