

**Kindred Spirits Worship
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026**

PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND TREATIES

One:

Called to live with respect in Creation
as Indigenous, Métis, Settler, and Newcomer peoples,
we acknowledge that the land on which we worship, work, learn, and serve,
and the water which sustains life on this land,
is of God, Creator,
and in the farthest reaches of memory
was entrusted to the original peoples who walked this land,
and to their descendants.

One:

With the coming of colonizers,
treaties were made,
but again and again the treaties were broken,
causing deep and lasting harm
to the historic caregivers of the land,
to the generations that followed them,
and to the land itself.

All:

**Called to action for Truth and Reconciliation,
we who gather here on Treaty One territory
and the homeland of the Red River Metis
commit ourselves to faithful ways
of honoring the treaties, the land, and one another
in a spirit of open-hearted respect.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING STATEMENT

Welcome to worship.

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.

Today, we gather to hear again the words of Jesus, who reminds us that he is the way, the truth, and the life.

May this time of worship draw us closer to God and to one another.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Do not let your hearts be troubled.

All: We trust in God's presence among us.

One: Christ prepares a place for us.

All: We are welcomed into God's love.

One: Jesus is the way that leads us home.

All: We follow with faith and hope.

One: Let us worship God.

All: We worship with joy and gratitude.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God,

You are our refuge and our dwelling place. In times of uncertainty, you guide us.

In moments of doubt, you remind us that we are never alone. Open our hearts to hear your word today. Help us to trust in the way of Christ, to walk in truth, and to live fully in your love. Make us a people who reflect your grace in all we say and do. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN VU#229

God of the Sparrow

MOMENT TO PONDER

What does “home” mean to you? For some, home is a physical place. For others, it is a feeling of safety, belonging, and love.

Jesus says, “I go to prepare a place for you.” These words are not just about a future home, but about the present reality.

Home is where we are known. Home is where we are loved without condition. Home is where we can truly be ourselves. In God’s love, we are always at home.

And yet, many people in our world do not experience that sense of home through displacement, loneliness, or broken relationships.

So today we ask: How can we create spaces of welcome?

How can we reflect God’s love so that others feel at home among us?

Because when we live in love, we become part of the home God is preparing right here, right now.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16

John 14:1–14

CHOIR ANTHEM **“River in Judea”**

REFLECTION

HYMN VU#87 **I Am the Light of the World**

OFFERING INVITATION

God has given us life, love, and a place to belong. In gratitude, we offer our gifts that others may also experience hope, welcome, and care. Let us give generously.

DOXOLOGY MV#191 **What Can I Do?**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God,

Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude. Use them to build communities of love, to bring hope where there is despair, and to remind all people that they are not alone. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

CENTERING MUSIC

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving God, you are our refuge and our home. In you we find peace, guidance, and hope.

We pray for those who feel lost or uncertain that they may find direction in your presence.

We pray for those who feel alone or without belonging, that they may be welcomed with love and compassion.

We pray for our world, where there is hurt and division bring healing, justice, and peace.

We pray for our community, for all who are struggling with illness, grief, or worry. Surround them with your comfort and strength.

Help us to walk in the way of Christ, to live in truth, and to reflect your love in all we do.

We lift before you the names spoken aloud and those held in silence...

(Silence)

Trusting in your love, we pray. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER VU#916 Our Father-Mother...

HYMN VU#595 We Are Pilgrims

COMMISSIONING

Go now as people of the Way. Go with hearts that trust in God. Go to create spaces of welcome and belonging.

May your lives reflect the truth and love of Christ.

CHORAL BLESSING MV#145 Draw the Circle Wide

Draw the circle wide.

Draw it wider still.

*Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.*

POSTLUDE