



First United Methodist Church of Orange

WALK IN THE LIGHT

A SERIES FROM 1 JOHN

MAY 5, 2024 | 10:30 A.M.

THE ENTRY

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Sing and Rejoice

Sanctuary Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Praise the Lord!

PEOPLE: **Praise the Lord in the heavens, praise the Lord in the heights!**

LEADER: Let God's faithful praise the Lord, whose name alone is exalted,

PEOPLE: **whose glory is above the earth. Praise the Lord! Alleluia!**

*OPENING HYMN

Alleluia, Alleluia

Hymnal #162

[Refrain]

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation. [Refrain]
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen. [Refrain]
3. We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live forever. [Refrain]
4. Come, let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Savior. [Refrain]

*PRAYER

O God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives,
bringing new life out of destruction,
hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty.

**We thank you that you do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole.
Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives,
and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit,
that we may know the joy you give your people. Amen.**

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to God, the Father. Glory be to God, the Son.
Glory be to God, the Spirit, Three in One.

As it was in the beginning; as it is and ever shall be;
now and evermore shall be; world without end, Amen!
World without end, Amen!

*GREETING

CELEBRATING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE SONG

Thy Word is a Lamp

Hymnal #601 (refrain)

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

FIRST LESSON

1 John 4:1-3a, 7-21

New Revised Standard Version

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. **2** By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, **3** and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **8** Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. **9** God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. **10** In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. **11** Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.

15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. **16** So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. **17** Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. **18** There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. **19** We love because he first loved us. **20** Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom

they have not seen. **21** The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 98

Hymnal #818

LEADER: O sing to the Lord a new song,
for the Lord has done marvelous things!
God's right hand and holy arm
have gotten the victory.

PEOPLE: **The Lord has declared victory,
and has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

LEADER: The Lord has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

PEOPLE: **All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.**

LEADER: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
PEOPLE: **break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

LEADER: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!

PEOPLE: **With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the Ruler, the Lord!**

LEADER: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell in it!

PEOPLE: **Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord,
who comes to judge the earth.
The Lord will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.**

GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:9-17

New Revised Standard Version

9 [Jesus continued,] "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. **10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **11** I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command you. **15** I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. **16** You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you

whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Break the Bread, Pour the Wine

Sanctuary Choir

*DOXOLOGY

Hymnal #95

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SERMON

Start With the Low-Hanging Fruit

Rev. William Johnson

RESPONSE

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy,
We freely confess that we have fallen short of your righteousness,
and have failed to practice the justice you desire.
We have not borne the fruit of the Spirit.
We have not loved others as you have loved us.
When we fail to fulfill our baptismal vows we deny ourselves
the very grace we proclaim to others.

**Forgive us, Merciful God, and renew a right spirit in us,
that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy.
For the sake of Jesus Christ we pray...**

all may continue in silent confession...

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

LEADER: Through Christ, God grants us forgiveness of all our sins
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Brothers and sisters, in Christ Jesus we are forgiven!

PEOPLE: **We are forgiven in Christ! Amen!**

*PASSING THE PEACE

*HYMN

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Hymnal #334

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord's Prayer (sung responsively)
Sharing the Bread and Cup
Prayer After Communion

Hymnal #17

*HYMN

How Can We Name a Love

Hymnal #111

1. How can we name a Love
that wakens heart and mind,
indwelling all we know
or think or do or seek or find?
Within our daily world,
in every human face,
Love's echoes sound and God is found,
hid in the commonplace.
2. If we awoke to life
built on a rock of care
that asked no great reward
but firm, assured, was simply there,
we can, with parents' names,
describe, and thus adore,
Love unconfined, a father kind,
a mother strong and sure.

3. When people share a task,
and strength and skills unite
in projects old or new,
to make or do with shared delight,
our Friend and Partner's will
is better understood,
that all should share, create, and care,
and know that life is good.
4. So in a hundred names,
each day we all can meet
a presence, sensed and shown
at work, at home, or in the street.
Yet every name we see,
shines in a brighter sun:
In Christ alone is Love full grown
and life and hope begun.

SENDING FORTH

*BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

*CHORAL RESPONSE

May the road rise to meet you,
may the wind blow at your back,
may the sun shine warmly on your face.

May the rain fall softly on your home
and until we meet again, until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of His hand. Amen.

POSTLUDE



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