

5th Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2015 ♦ 11:00 a.m. Worship

Welcome

*Passing the Peace

Prelude *Now Thank We All our God* Tauscher

*Call to Worship

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

People: Since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

Leader: If we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

People: God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.

Leader: Let us abide in God. All: Let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn #57** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*
(vss. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7)

*Centering Prayer

To honor and praise you, O God, we come in gratitude and love. With great joy and amazement, we remember the victory of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Therefore, we raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving for your incomparable gift of love revealed in Christ's resurrection. Amen.

Anthem *Worship as One* Choplin
 Sanctuary Choir

Ministry of the Word John 15:1-8 (MSG)
Leader: "The Word of God for the People of God."
People: "Thanks be to God."

Sermon "That's Just the Way I Love You!" Rev. Bates
 Text: 1 John 4:7-21 (MSG)

Invitation

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

God of grace and mercy, we kneel before you today. We recognize that we are unworthy to be called your children; we are unworthy to be called your friends. Yet you call us son, daughter and friend. You love us with a love unlike any we have ever known – love that is completely unconditional. We cannot wrap our human minds around what it would look like to love someone unconditionally. We often try, but we fail. But you love us, even in our failings. You love us, even in our unworthiness. We also confess the ways that we have rejected your love. Give us hearts that are open to receiving it -- that we may experience the full measure of the love of a Father, a Mother, a friend like no other. And may we love you always in return. *(continue to pray in silence)*

Offering & Offertory *Because He Lives* Gaither
 Men's Ensemble

*Doxology (#95)

The Great Thanksgiving (UMH pg. 17)

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

Prayer After Receiving

Thank you, merciful God, for the bounty of your creation — for the gifts of the field and vine that nourish our bodies, souls and hearts. Sustained by this meal and the assurance of your grace through our Lord, Jesus Christ, may our lives reflect your presence and may you be our priority. Amen.

***Closing Hymn #2223 (TFWS)** *They'll Know We are Christians*

*Benediction

***Postlude** *Trio* Couperin

**Please Stand As You Are Able*