

*First Presbyterian Church of Monroe*  
*Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
*May 2, 2021*



**Welcome**

Ann Lux, Liturgist

**Prelude**

### **Threshold Moment**

This is the call!

Look to the skies be it rain or shine.

**We lift up our heads to meet the day.**

Look around and see that you do not dance alone.

**We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.**

If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of hope and praise and set out anyway.

**For we are called to dance again!**

**Prayer**

Ann Lux, Liturgist

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –

Open us to learn new steps of faithfulness.

Give us courage and patience.

Your love gathers us, urges us, encourages us;

Dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you –

Be with us now, we pray in the name of the Risen Christ. Amen.

### **Opening Song of Praise** “Guide My Feet”

**Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

**Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Great Redeemer, your word offers freedom from sin,

but we confess we have not obeyed your word.

We harbor malice toward our enemies.

Our memories are long and our ability to forget is short.

We are deceitful in our relationships;

and insincere in our commitments;

Through gossip we slander and devour,

while setting brushfires of discontentment.

We complain and grumble rather than rejoice and give thanks.

Your way is not our ways.

Remind us again and again  
to dance in your love and to the beat of your heart.  
Place your wounded hands upon our hearts.  
Forgive us and turn us again toward you.  
Lord of Life. Lord of Light. Lord of Resurrection. Amen.

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

In baptism God claimed you  
And joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine.  
Believe the promise given to you: in Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

### **Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you.  
**And also, with you.**  
You are invited to turn to wave to each other as a sign of graceful greetings this day.

## **A Story for All Ages** *(Time with Children)*

### **The Story**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

#### **Let's offer a repeat-after-me-prayer:**

“We offer thanks  
**we offer thanks**  
for dreamers true  
**for dreamers true**  
for all they are  
**for all they are**  
and all they do.  
**and all they do.**  
Let us become  
**let us become**  
dreamers too  
**dreamers too**  
and bring new life  
**and bring new life**  
to me and you!  
**to me and you!**  
Amen!  
**Amen!**

## Reading of the Word

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40 (NRSV)

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Second Reading: I John 4:17-21 (NRSV)

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## Sounds of Resurrection

*“Spirit, I Have Heard You Calling”*

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8  
Sermon

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler  
Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,  
teach me to move in the power of your Spirit,  
teach me to [move] in the light of your presence,  
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.

Affirmation of Faith

*Apostle’s Creed*

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Let us say what we believe:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again for the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Offering Our Resources and Our Energy

Ann Lux, Liturgist

How do we know the rhythm and dance of our lives is faithful? When we love Jesus, we fall in rhythm to the beat of Jesus’s heart. We become ever attentive to all of creation, for Christ is in all things. Let us direct our energy to the work of justice and love; and let us boldly put our trust in God, who holds our lives. May this energy be reflected through our offering today.

Teach me to pray in the power of Easter,  
following Christ in a life resurrected,  
teach me to act with compassion and justice,  
teach me to dance with the beat of your heart.

## The Lords' Supper

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

### Invitation to the Table

Brothers and Sisters, we are the body of Christ.  
**By one Spirit we were baptized into one body.**  
Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.  
**Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here.  
**God's Spirit is with us.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

...We proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and saying:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

...Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

...all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as 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.

**Breaking of the Bread**  
**Communion of the People**  
**Prayer After Communion**

**Song for Stepping Out into the World**  
“Lead Me, Guide Me”

**Charge**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Hear these words from poet and songwriter Leonard Cohen:  
“Dance me to your beauty with a burning violin.  
Dance me through the panic till I'm gathered safely in.  
Lift me like an olive branch and be my homeward dove Dance me to the end of love.  
May we follow the lead of the Spirit as we find expansive ways to dance the dance of love.

**Blessing**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Our Loving God,  
Risen Christ,  
and Dancing, Swirling Spirit  
will fill you with all you need.  
May your life bring the beat of the Spirit  
to all needing the rhythm of God's love.  
The rhythm of Again and Again.  
Go forth and dare to dance!  
Be God's love letter to the world! Alleluia! Amen.

**Postlude**

**FPC Monroe Worship Team**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler, Pastor  
Rob Edwards, Minister of Music  
Ann Lux, Liturgist  
Chelsea Whiteoak, Soloist  
Isaac Fankhauser, Sound Team  
Josh McMann, Sound Team  
Randy Stiffler, Sound Team



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Prayer of Confession adapted from “Feasting on the Word”, Worship Companion, Yr. A. Westminster John Knox Press. Louisville. 2014. p. 152.

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