

*First Presbyterian Church of Monroe  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 9, 2021*



*“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”*

*John 15: 12, NRSV*

**Welcome**

Helyn Schroeder, Liturgist

**Prelude**

**Threshold Moment  
(video)**

Let all creation break forth into praises of this, our awesome God! Let all creation break forth into praises of this, our loving Christ! Let all creation break forth into praises of this, our enlivening Spirit!

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,  
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,  
Dare to dance again!**

Dancing requires that we pay attention to the steps, that we watch for the steps of those who have danced this dance of life before – those whose seeking and questioning and dreaming can lead us to seek and hope and dream. Imagine now a dreamer in whose steps you would like to follow. How did they choreograph their dance of life? Now, imagine yourself following their steps with courage and joy!

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,  
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,  
Dare to dance again!**

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**

Helyn Schroeder, Liturgist

[Liturgist begins prayer by saying "Let Us Pray" ...]

Lord of the Dance, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –

Open us to learn new steps of faithfulness.

Open us to learn from the dances of others.

Open us to lean into each new day...dancing!

Give us courage and patience. Strengthen us in our faith.

Gather us, encourages us and lead us in your dance of love.  
We pray in the name of the Risen Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **Opening Song of Praise**

“I Come with Joy”  
Verses 1, 4, and 5

### **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,  
And set brushfires of discontentment.  
We complain and grumble.  
We find fault rather than rejoicing and giving 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.  
Heal us.  
Forgive us.  
Turn us again toward you.  
Lord of Life. Lord of Light. Lord of Resurrection. Amen.

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

### **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 10:44-48 (NRSV)**  
**Second Reading: Psalm 98 (NRSV)**

Helyn Schroeder, Liturgist  
Helyn Schroeder, Liturgist

### **Sounds of Resurrection**

*"No Greater Love"*  
*Chelsea Whiteoak, soloist*

**Gospel Reading: John 15: 9-17**  
**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***Apostles' Creed*

Helyn Schroeder, Liturgist

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 from 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

**The Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

**Unison:** 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.

**Offering Our Resources and Our Energy**

Helyn Schroeder, Liturgist

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. How do we know the rhythm and dance of our lives is faithful? When we direct our energy to the work of justice and love;

so, let us boldly put our trust in God, who holds our lives. Let us be Christ's community building church that creates and supports ministries seeking new solutions for showing neighbor love.

**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.**

### **Song for Stepping Out into the World**

"The Trees of the Field"  
("You Shall Go Out with Joy")

#### **Charge**

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

#### **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  
Helyn Schroeder, Liturgist  
Chelsea Whiteoak, Soloist  
Isaac Fankhauser, Sound Team  
Josh McMann, Sound Team  
Randy Stiffler, Sound Team



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## Credits

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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