

*Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2025*  
*The Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
*Minister: Rev. Ian Taylor, A.C.I.B.S., B.D., Th.M., Dip. P.S.R.P.*  
*Musical Director: Mr. Alan Craig. B.Mus., P.G.C.E.*

*Members of the congregation who are able to stand are invited to do so as the Bible is brought in and taken out of the Church.*

### Intimations

- **The Sunday School** will meet in **Room 2** today.
- **Please place your offering in the Offering Plates** as these are uplifted during the Service.
- **Tea and Coffee will be served after Church** in the Cameron Hall.
- There will be a **Vestry Hour on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>. May, 2025 at 10am followed by our mid-week Service at 11.10am.**
- **Tickets for our "Sparkling Afternoon Tea"** which will be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June between 2pm and 4pm will go **on sale today, priced £10.**
- **Christian Aid envelopes** can be returned this week and next.

### Introit

#### Call to Worship

#### Hymn 565 My life flows on in endless song

- 1 My life flows on in endless song  
Above earth's lamentation:  
I catch the sweet, though far off hymn  
That hails a new creation.  
*No storm can shake my inmost calm  
While to that Rock I'm clinging;  
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,  
How can I keep from singing?*
- 2 Through all the tumult and the strife  
I hear that music ringing;

It finds an echo in my soul;  
How can I keep from singing?

#### *Chorus*

- 3 What though my joys and comforts die.  
The Lord my Saviour liveth!  
What though the darkness round me close?  
Songs in the night he giveth.

#### *Chorus*

- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing.  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing?

#### *Chorus*

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### Call to Prayer

#### Prayer of Approach and Confession

#### Children's Address

#### Hymn 684 The Lord created families

- 1 The Lord created families  
to make his kindness known;  
for when we care the way we ought  
our love reflects his own,  
a love which always reaches out  
to those who feel alone.
- 2 The Lord has made a family  
with members everywhere;  
and Jesus is the eldest Son,  
the one whose name we bear,  
whose words and life show holiness,  
a likeness we can share.
- 3 We are your church, your family,  
the children of your grace:  
inspire us, Lord, to show the world

the warmth of your embrace,  
till all who long for wholeness find  
a welcome and a place.

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### Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers<sup>[a]</sup> who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God.<sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers<sup>[a]</sup> criticized him,<sup>3</sup> saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?"<sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying,<sup>5</sup> "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me.<sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air.<sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'<sup>8</sup> But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'<sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.'<sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.<sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.<sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us.<sup>[a]</sup> These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.<sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter;<sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.'<sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning.<sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'<sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"<sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Anthem

### St. John 13:31-35

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.<sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him,<sup>[a]</sup> God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.<sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'<sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.<sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

### Hymn 526 This is the day of new beginnings,

- 1 This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember, and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that's gone.
- 2 For by the life and death of Jesus,  
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
can make for us a world of difference  
as faith and hope are born again.
- 3 Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
step from the past and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt and grieving,  
seeking new paths, and sure to find.
- 4 Christ is alive, and goes before us  
to show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings —  
our God is making all things new.

Brian Wren (b. 1936) Reproduced from CH4 CD-ROM edition, number 526  
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Sermon

The Offering (& Sung Doxology: Hymn 807)

Prayers of Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

**Hymn 104 The Lord of heaven confess;(Psalm 148)**

- 1 The Lord of heaven confess;  
On high his glory raise:  
Him let all angels bless,  
Him all his armies praise.  
Him glorify  
Sun, moon, and stars;  
Ye higher spheres,  
And cloudy sky.
- 2 From God your beings are,  
Him therefore famous make;  
You all created were,  
When he the word but spake.  
And from that place,  
Where fixed you be  
By his decree,  
You cannot pass.
- 3 Praise God from earth below,  
Ye dragons, and ye deeps:  
Fire, hail, clouds, wind, and snow,  
Whom in command he keeps.  
Praise ye his name,  
Hills great and small,  
Trees low and tall,  
Beasts wild and tame.
- 4 All things that creep or fly.  
Ye kings, ye vulgar throng,  
All princes mean or high;  
Both men and virgins young,  
Even young and old,  
Exalt his Name;  
For much his fame  
Should be extolled.

- 5 Oh, let God's name be praised  
Above both earth and sky;  
For he his saints hath raised,  
And set their horn on high;  
even those that be  
Of Israel's race,  
near to his grace,  
The Lord praise ye.

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Benediction

Choral Amen