



"Except When
It Wasn't"

And It Was Good

A 5-week sermon series on gender, sexuality, and intimacy.

February 5, 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF TOPEKA

Loving God, loving neighbors, and living with purpose

785.233.9601

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February 5, 2023

Order of Worship

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Where you see an asterisk (), please rise in body or spirit.*

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC (10:30) — “O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns Be Rising” — Leo Sowerby

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (8:30) — “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” — Gordon Young

©1977 Hope Publishing Company

(10:30) — “Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above” — Hugo Distler

©1950 Barenreiter

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come to worship this morning seeking healing in our lives: healing of body, mind, and spirit; healing of painful memories; healing of broken relationships.

People: **We bring our brokenness to God and ask for healing wherever we need it most.**

Leader: O God, we pray that when we leave this morning, we may do so with deeper knowledge of your healing mercy and love for each one of us.

All: **Let us worship God!**

*OPENING PRAYER

***OPENING HYMN #366 — “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more like you, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

SILENT CONFESSION and KYRIE — #576

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***HYMN #441 — “Hear the Good News of Salvation”**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

MINISTRY OF MUSIC (10:30 only) — “With a Voice of Singing” — Martin Shaw

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — Philippians 4:8-9 — pg. 198 in NT

Please note that the scriptures will be read aloud from the NSRV Updated Edition. The Bibles in our pews are NRSV. You may notice a few differences between what you hear and what you read as you follow along.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — Matthew 5:27-30— pg. 5 in NT

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE — And It Was Good: “Except When It Wasn’t”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***HYMN (10:30 only) #418 — “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”**

OFFERING

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory (8:30) — “They’ll Know We Are Christians” — Ron Boud

©1972 F.E.L. Church Publications

(10:30) — “Give Me Jesus” — arr. Mark Hayes

©1998 Alfred Music (OneLicense and CCLI)

***Doxology — #607**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

COMMUNION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WE DEPART IN JOY TO SERVE

***SENDING HYMN #321 — “The Church’s One Foundation,” vv. 1, 2, 5**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION — “With a Voice of Singing” excerpt**

***POSTLUDE (8:30) — “Great Is the Lord” — Jack Schrader**

©2001 Meadowgreen Music

(10:30) — “Fanfare” — William Mathias

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Ministers: All the Members of the Congregation

Pastors:

The Rev. Sandra Stogsdill Brown, *Pastor*

Patrick Yancey, *Commissioned Associate Pastor*

The Rev. Dr. Neil Weatherhogg, *Pastor Emeritus*

Liturgist: Jason Fish

Music Staff:

Dr. Kevin Kellim, *Director of Music*

Dr. Cynthia Neufeld Smith, *Organist*

Norma Pettijohn, *Organist Emeritus*

Soloist: Scott Frost

Audio/Video: Treven Broxterman, Will Hartner

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Office Manager: Melissa Ashwill

Sunday Custodian: Steve Johnson

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Becky Foster, Christine Reeder

Stephen Ministry Leaders:

John Dorsey, Jane Owen