



Everyone who loves is born of
God and knows God.

1 John 4:7

April 28, 2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TOPEKA

Loving God, loving neighbors, and living with purpose

785.233.9601

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April 28, 2024

Order of Worship

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC (10:30) — Prologue and Aria — Janet M. Correll

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE — “Roeder” (“God of the Sparrow”) — Albert L. Travis

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*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: As members of Christ's tree of life,

People: we are connected, in love, to God.

Leader: As members of Christ's tree of life,

People: we are connected, in love, to one another.

Leader: As members of Christ's tree of life,

People: we strengthen our connection through worship.

*OPENING PRAYER

***OPENING HYMN #22 — “God of the Sparrow”**

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful One, you know when we are afraid to love; you know when we are too cowardly to show mercy. Remind us again that perfect love casts out such fears. Surround us and strengthen us with your perfect love, even in the face of our imperfections. Imbue us with a love so strong, with such growth toward perfection, that we may cast aside our pride and embrace the power of love.

SILENT CONFESSION and KYRIE — #578

O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.

O Christ, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy, have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*THE GLORIA — #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*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) — **"The Gift of Love"** — arr. Hal Hopson

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — **Mark 12:29-30** — pg. 49 in NT

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — **1 John 4:7-21** — pg. 241 in NT

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE — **"Love Is the Answer"**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** (from the Book of Common Worship)

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

***HYMN #203 — “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” (10:30 only)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

Offertory (8:30) — “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” — Robert Powell

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(10:30) — “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” — arr. Richard Walters

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***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.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

WE DEPART IN JOY TO SERVE

***SENDING HYMN #286 — “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION — All-Church Prayer (see insert)**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION — “Amen” — Gordon McQuere**

by permission

POSTLUDE — “Music for a Festival” — Calvin Hampton

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Chancel flowers provided by Richard and Julie Lady in honor of Mitchell & Avery Lady
in celebration of their wedding yesterday, April 27.

Ministers: All the Members of the Congregation

Pastors:

The Rev. Sandra Stogsdill Nichols, *Pastor*

Patrick Yancey, *Commissioned Associate Pastor*

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

Liturgist: Phil Baker

Music Staff:

Dr. Kevin Kellim, *Director of Music*

Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans, *Organist*

Dr. Cynthia Neufeld Smith, *Assistant Organist*

Norma Pettijohn, *Organist Emeritus*

Soloist: Jennifer Roth

Fellowship Host: John & Zelma Gould

Audio/Video: Treven Broxterman, Will Hartner

Assistant to the Pastors: Treven Broxterman

Director of Maintenance: Mark Ingle

Family Ministries Coordinator: Herman Jones

Office Assistant: Patty Foster

Sunday Custodian: Steve Johnson

Childcare Attendants:

Becky Foster, Samantha Edwards,

Maresella Newton

Stephen Ministry Leaders:

John Dorsey, Jane Owen