**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**May 18, 2025**

**WE WELCOME EACH OTHER**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Today he gives us a new commandment: that we love one another, just as he has loved us.

**We are an Easter people, committed to loving one another.**

Let us worship God.

**Let us pray.**

**WE CENTRE IN GOD:**

God, you have given us the gift of stories--

**Stories that challenge us and put our feet on a new path,**

Stories that inspire hope,

**Stories that change everything,**

And stories that assure us that at the heart of even the darkest places, there is your love.

**Open us to your story for us, today, as we worship you.**

**HYMN:**

**WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD:**

Holy One, in movies, novels, the lessons of history, on our screens, we have gazed at worlds of contrast—of hope and despair, of possibility and destruction, of cruelty and compassion.

**As our own world fills with similar possibilities, we turn to you.**

May we remember that Jesus, too, inhabited such a world.

**May we claim his way of being for our lives.**

When we forget that in all of life, you are with us,

**Sustain us with your life-giving presence.**

Enfold us in the love that we have for one another.

*(Silent Prayer)*

**AND WE ARE ACCEPTED:**

In the light of all our Easter mornings, each arriving as sure as the sunrise,

**God’s love, compassion, forgiveness and unimagined possibilities are revealed.**

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

**OFFERTORY:** “Take my Gifts” (Tune: VU 460)

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:**

We sing of the gift that your love is to us.

**Love abounds. Gladly, we live love, sharing what we have received.**