

*The United Methodist Church  
12 Commerce Street  
Clinton, CT*



May 3, 2026  
Holy Communion

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

\*Please stand in body, and/or spirit

Prelude

Welcome, Acknowledgements of first-time visitors and announcements

Words to Ponder:

*Trusting God sounds so simple, but trust is a journey. Join the journey toward trust, for Christ will show us the way.*

Introit

Chancel Choir

\*Call to Worship (Responsively)

Easter people, in the midst of our questions and doubts, Jesus answers:

**I am the way, the truth, and the life.**

In the midst of our worry and distress, Jesus assures us:

**I am the way, the truth, and the life.**

In the midst of misinformation, confusion, and distrust, Jesus reminds us:

**I am the way, the truth, and the life.**

In the midst of dead ends and impossible challenges, Jesus shows us:

**I am the way, the truth, and the life.**

Come, let us worship as we learn to follow Christ, our way, our truth, and our life.

**Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn

“My Hope Is Built”

No. 368

Opening Prayer (Unison)

**Ever-gracious, Way-Making God, we celebrate the gifts of your Spirit.**

**You have not fed us a diet of shame or shrinking, but with the milk of your truth, you have made us strong and faithful servants of Christ. You call us to take up the mantle of justice and to follow wherever faith leads us. You fill us with strength and hope, and you invite us to share in the cost and joys of discipleship. You promise us splendor and beauty in this life and in the world to come. Meet us here, we pray, that your word will be fulfilled in our hearing and that your Spirit will fill us with courage. Amen.**

Scripture Readings

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 (Old Testament)

*The Psalmist (David, according to the heading) pleads for God's protection and deliverance from enemies who seek to harm and ensnare him, and commits his soul into God's care.*

Acts 7:55-60 (New Testament)

*Stephen who has been on trial, expresses his vision of Jesus glorified, which angers the religious leaders, who drag him out of the city to stone him. But, Stephen, as he dies, prays for his attackers, and commits himself to God.*

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading

John 14:1-14 (Gospel)

*Jesus encourages his disciples to trust in him and not be troubled, for he is the way to God and God is revealed and known in him.*

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

Sermon

“In Those Moments”

Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Offertory

\*Doxology

#95

\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

**God of steadfast faithfulness and love, bless these gifts, that they may bring your message of faith and love to the world. Bless us also, that we may be steadfast and true in our giving and in our living. Build our church, build us, and build your world into a household of love and justice—the household you've envisioned since the beginning of time. In faith and trust, we pray. Amen.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

## A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

\*Hymn

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

No. 618

## A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

### INVITATION

Here at this table, the pure milk of Christ’s love is ours.

Here at this table, the nourishment of God’s salvation is ours.

Here at this table, the strength of the Holy Spirit is ours.

Come to be fed. Come to be nourished. Come to be strengthened,  
for all are welcome at this table of grace.

### CONFESSION AND PARDON

**Merciful God: We claim that you sent Jesus to us to take away the sin of the world and to say that we are part of that sin. Maybe our small errors add up; or maybe there is no degree to sin, that one is as hurtful as another. Help us not to dwell on vocabulary. Help us not to focus on what sin means but to acknowledge that we do things that hurt other people, and the creation, and ourselves, and you. Come into our hearts, then, and give us strength and courage to be less hurtful and more loving. These things we pray in the name of Jesus, who showed us how this is done. Amen.**

*Silent personal confession*

### Words of Assurance

Friends, hear the good news: Jesus came not to condemn us, but to love us and save us and show us the way. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**All:           Glory to God. Amen.**

### THE PEACE

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image  
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed,  
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,  
made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through the prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,

to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had  
come when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection

you gave birth to your Church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended,  
he promised to be with us always,  
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living  
sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and cup.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other,  
and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

*Holy Communion is served*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give  
ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn

“Victory in Jesus”

No. 370

Benediction/Going Forth

Postlude

Worship Resources

**Call to Worship**

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2025.

**Opening Prayer**

Written by Rev. Elizabeth Dilley on the Worship Ways (United Church of Christ) website at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-5-may-10/>.

**Prayer of Dedication & Invitation to Holy Communion**

<https://ministrymatters.com/2025-11-05-may-3-2026-fifth-sunday-of-easter/>

**Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance**

Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, “Hold Fast to What Is Good.” Used with permission. Posted at <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/>.

*Flowers today are from the Hales in honor of Roger Templeton's Birthday on 5/1 and also, from the Andersons in honor of their daughter Dawn's birthday today.*



**SUNDAY, MAY 3-Communion Sunday**

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Worship

11:00 Fellowship

**TUESDAY, MAY 5**

WIC 8-5 pm

7:00 Bible Study Online

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 6**

9:30 TOPS

5:00 Community Supper

**THURSDAY, MAR 7**

10:00 Bible Study

7:30 Choir

**FRIDAY, MAY 8**

5:30 AA meeting

***May 3***

Ushers: Lynn Sellers, David Moore, Bob Morrison, Brian Piezcko

Camera Operator: Lisa Sutherland

Video Coordinator: Erica Babjak

Worship Leader: Natalie Sutherland

Lectionary scriptures: Acts 9:1-6 (7-20), Psalm 30 (UM762), Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19

Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Communion Steward: Sharon Minick

Fellowship Hosts: Hales

Counters: Robin Patten and Wilda Lohutko

Music/Choir Director: Bob Hale

Organist: Patty Hurlburt

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