

## **May 15, 2022 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Prelude**

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Greeting**

**Opening Hymn** (Instrumental) - NCH 283 - "Spirit of the Living God" is connected to today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles. It closes with "Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me."

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Come to praise God, all you faithful people! Come, for God welcomes you and offers to draw close.

**Congregation: Praise to God, who rules over all the earth. Praise to God, who is as near as our next breath.**

Liturgist: Sun and moon and stars shine in praise to God. God created them and established for each a place.

**Congregation: God has a place for us in this world; we have come that God may instruct and equip us.**

Liturgist: Mountains and hills, trees and animals praise God. Let all the rulers of the earth do so as well.

**Congregation: God provides abundantly for our needs. God makes of one family all who dwell on earth.**

**Hymn** (Instrumental) - NCH 613 - In today's epistle lesson, John sees the holy city coming down from heaven. This hymn, "O Holy City, Seen of John" expresses a hope for a realm of God beginning here and now.

**Confession of Sin**

**We admit, holy God, that we find it hard to hear your promise of new life. Even when we are dissatisfied with our lives, it is easier to cling to what we know than to risk the unknown. You challenge us to accept people who are different from us, but we are not eager to associate with them. You command us to love one another, but some people are not lovable. O God, melt our defenses so we can accept your love and let it flow through us. Grant us courage to embrace newness. Amen.**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Gloria Patri** (Instrumental)

**Lesson from the Acts of the Apostles – Acts 11:1-18**

**Special Music of Praise** (Recorded) - Our special hymn of praise is inspired by today's gospel John 13:34 and is important for "kids" of all ages. If you are so moved, feel free to join in! This is "John 13:34" by Early Childhood Worship.

**Children's Sermon**

**Lesson from the Revelation to John – Revelation 21:1-6**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Offering**

**Offertory** - Our instrumental offertory today is inspired by Gabarain's "Go Forth, O People of God." (614)

**Doxology**

**Gospel Lesson – John 13:31-35**

**Sermon**

**Closing Hymn** (Instrumental) - NCH 540 - "We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed" - Based on the tune "New Beginnings," this hymn closes with "Our lives will be fulfilled and blessed if through the seeds we've sown and by the love that we profess the love of Christ is known."

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

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