

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

305-311 Route 46, Budd Lake, NJ 07828

973-691-9393 • www.abidingpeacechurch.org

Serena Rice, *pastor* • Benjamin Schroeder, *music director*



Ascension of Our Lord

May 17, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Abiding Peace Lutheran Church!



Abiding Peace Lutheran Church makes Christ known by welcoming all people to a supportive and accepting place to grow in faith and community and to serve the Lord as people created by God, saved by Christ, and nurtured by the Holy Spirit. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, committed to the full inclusion and celebration of people of all sexualities, genders, and gender expressions, and to the work of racial equity.

In-person visitors are invited to share their contact information with the usher if they would like a follow-up with the pastor. Thank you for blessing us with your presence. We welcome children to worship and we encourage their participation, including their wiggles and child voices. There is a seating area at the back of the sanctuary with room for little ones to crawl around. If desired, there is also a nursery room available, accompanied by parents or guardians.

Offering: The Ministry of Abiding Peace is supported by the generous donations of our community. Please consider supporting our work through a variety of giving options, including donations through Venmo (search for @Abiding-Peace-BuddLake), online bill pay with your bank, mailing your offering envelope to the church, or plate giving.

Holy Communion: We commune at the altar rail. Please collect an individual cup from the usher when you come forward, or come forward at the end for the common cup. We offer either wine or juice and allergen-free bread. If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, the usher can bring communion to you. You are also welcome to come forward with arms crossed for a blessing.

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

Ascension of Our Lord

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven, and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. When the disciples gazed up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11), they were told not to look there; we find Christ's presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the sacramental feast. We, too, long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

PRELUDE

Cantique *

Nadia Boulanger

Sally O'Sullivan, soprano

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

***C* Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

***C* Amen.**

P Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Pause for silent reflection.

* The translation of the French lyrics can be found on the last page.

P Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, powerful waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

C You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in sorrow and in joy, in pain and in healing, in despair and in hope. Blessed are you.

C You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows with blessings. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

C You guide us to springs of the water of life.

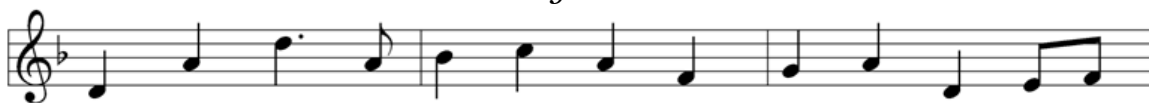
P Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Up through Endless Ranks of Angels **LBW 159**

with The Messengers Sacred Dancers



1 Up through end - less ranks of an - gels, cries of tri - umph
2 Death-de - stroy - ing, life - re - stor - ing, prov - en e - qual
3 To our lives of wan - ton wan - d'ring send your prom - ised
4 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to breathe the



in his ears, to his heav'n - ly throne as - cend - ing,
to our need, now for us be - fore the Fa - ther
Spir - it guide; through our lives of fear and fail - ure
Spir - it's grace! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



hav - ing van - quished all their fears, Christ looks down up -
 as our broth - er in - ter - cede; flesh that for our
 with your pow'r and love a - bide; wel - come us, as
 Oh, to see the Fa - ther's face! Al - le - lu - ia!



on his faith - ful, leav - ing them in hap - py tears.
 world was wound - ed, liv - ing, for the wound - ed plead!
 you were wel - comed, to an end - less Eas - ter - tide.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to feel the Son's em - brace!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919. Music: ASCENDED TRIUMPH, Henry V. Gerike, B. 1948. Text © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music: © 1974 Henry V. Gerike

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

KYRIE



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



☒ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

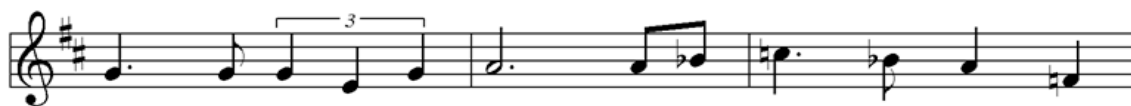
Return to Refrain



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Return to Refrain

I
II For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.

☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God,

C **your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE FIRST READING

Acts 1:1–11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

L A reading from Acts.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the

Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 47

The Psalm will be spoken responsively, by verse.

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a joyful sound.
- 2 **For the Lord Most High is to be feared:
a great king over all the earth,**
- 3 who subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet;
- 4 **who chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**
- 5 God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of the ram's horn.
- 6 **Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises.**
- 7 For God is king of all the earth;
sing praises with a song.
- 8 **God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned on high.**
- 9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of
Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

THE SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15–23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

L A reading from Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I

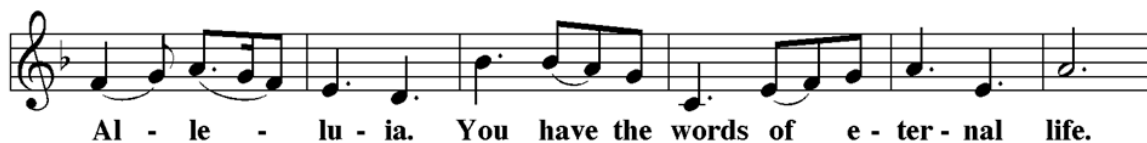
remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him

from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please stand, if you are able.*



THE GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter:

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then [Jesus] said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my

Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows. All stand and sing the Hymn of the Day.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Rejoice, for Christ Is King! **ELW 430**



- 1 Re - joice, for Christ is king! Your Lord and king a - dore;
- 2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus reigns, the God of truth and love;
- 3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heav'n;
- 4 He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit



re - joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:
the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n:
and bow to his com - mand and fall be - neath his feet:

Refrain



Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; re -



joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: LAUS REGIS, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

CONFESSION OF FAITH

(Based on Acts 10:34–48)

C We believe that God, the Creator of all, shows no partiality, but among every people anyone who fears God and practices righteousness is acceptable.

We believe that God has reached out to the world, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. In the early church, this message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced, and to the ends of the earth: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by evil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did. The powers of the day put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to the first believers who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commanded them, and through them commands us, to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who trusts in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who falls upon all who hear and trust the word. We believe in the gift of baptism in the name of Jesus Christ. We believe in the welcome and holy community of all who share this faith. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A Life-giving God, by his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus destroyed death forever. With thanksgiving we remember those who rest from the labors, assured of your promise of everlasting life. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Gracious God, your Son Jesus ascended to fill all time and space and is present with all people. By your Holy Spirit, lead your church and its leaders in faith, hope, and love, and in witnessing to the presence and mercy of Christ. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Majestic God, your Son Jesus entrusts his ministry to his followers to care for all creatures and spaces you have created. Instill in us a commitment to sustainable ecological practices. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Almighty God, your Son Jesus sits at your right hand and rules the cosmos. Inspire national and local politicians to lead with equity and fairness, raise up advocates and activists for those seeking justice, and cultivate peace throughout the world. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Merciful God, your Son Jesus carries with him the scars of suffering as our wounded healer. Guide with your wisdom the work of surgeons, pharmacists, midwives, and all medical specialists, and bring your healing touch to all who are sick. We pray for all who are mourning and for all on our prayer list, including Karen, Jim, Don, Joseph, Ryan, Grace, Jackson, Donna, Jeanne, Valeriy, Jennifer, Mark, John, Karen & Ken, and David. (*Pause to allow additional prayers to be offered.*) We pray for all in harm's way, including essential workers, our armed forces, and all serving overseas. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Caring God, your Son Jesus reveals the depths of your love and calls all people to himself so that they might know this love. Accompany us in our work and play to make your love known in all that we do. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The Ministers and People share the sign of peace. Afterward, please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE OFFERING

Now we join Christians all over the world in worshiping God through the giving of our financial resources, in recognition and thanksgiving that all we have comes from God.

P Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

OFFERTORY

Adagio Cantabile

Fredrikke Egeberg

Abiding Peace
@Abiding-Peace-BuddLake



venmo



C Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

A Merciful God,

C accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us now with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and through us bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

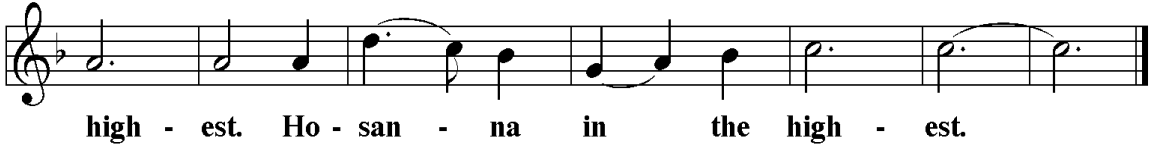
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ; who, enthroned forever at your right hand, intercedes for us as our great high priest. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





P God of Resurrection, we praise you for your love. Your self-giving love spun the world into being and has called and carried your people through every age. Your love took its greatest expression when you sent your only Son to live, die, and rise again for us.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering, therefore, the life you lived with us and the life you gave for us, we await your return with joy. Send your Spirit to us now, to birth in us the same love that you have shown us, and unite us to follow your example in the world. All honor and glory are yours, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

P Jesus, unite us as we pray:

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

P Come to the table of new life.

C We come to receive fullness of life from the risen Lord.

You will be invited to come forward to the altar rail, collecting a cup from the usher. At the rail you may stand or kneel, hold your hand flat for the bread, and raise your cup for the chalice bearer to pour. You may leave your cup in the basket in the front row when you return to your seat.



☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

Jesus, Name above All Names **W&P 77**



Je - sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful



Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord. Em - man - u - el, God is



with us, Bless-ed Re - deem - er, Li - ving word

Text: Naida Hearn (1944-2001); Music Naida Hearn (1944-2001)
© 1974 Scripture in Song, a division of Integrity Music, Inc.

Stand, if you are able.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

A Holy One,

C **through this meal you have made your home among us, and through us you are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**



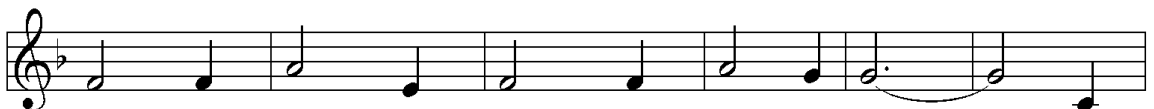
Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -



one what God has done. Let all who seek the



Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and

lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

THE BENEDICTION

P God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the resurrection, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ☩ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads **W&P 88**

All stand, as able, and sing.

1 Lift up your heads, O you gates; swing wide, you
 2 Up from the dead, he as-cends, through ev-'ry
 3 With trum-pet blast and shouts of joy, all heav-en

ev-er-last-ing doors. Lift up your heads, O you
 rank of heav'n-ly pow'r. Let heav'n pre-prepare the high-est
 greets the ris-en king. With an-gel choirs come line the

gates; swing wide, you ev - er - last - ing doors.
 place, throw wide the ev - er - last - ing doors.
 way, throw wide the gates and wel - come him.

Refrain

That the King of glo - ry may come in, that the

King of glo - ry may come in; that the King of glo - ry

may come in, that the King of glo - ry may come in.

may come in.

Text & music: Graham Kendrick. Text & music © 1991 Make Way Music, admin. Integrity Music, Inc.

DISMISSAL

- A Alleluia! Christ is risen.
 C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
 A Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia!
 C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Praise Band



Sally O'Sullivan is a pianist, singer, and teacher from Oak Ridge. She is a member of the Harmonium Choral Society and the founder of Ghost Light Opera, a group that performs great and mostly unknown works of musical theatre.

Next Week's Lessons:

Acts 2:1-21

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 7

Serving in Worship		
	Today, 5/17	Next Week, 5/24
Altar Guild	Sibylle Schroeder	Sibylle Schroeder
Counter	Sandy Carlson	Howard Corneilson
Assistant Minister	Mary Kasakove	Doug Laird
Lector	Maria Jerez	Anna Santino
Communion Assist.	George Pawlo	Maria Jerez
Usher/Greeter	Sandy Carlson	Mary Kasakove
Acolyte	Howard Corneilson	Cindy Pawlo
Soloist	Shelli Skeels	George Pawlo
Livestream Assistant	Tyler Rice	Nick Senior

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Serena: Wednesday, 5/20 3:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. Thursday 5/21 : 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Sunday, 5/24 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Catherine Belfiore: Thursday 5/21 : 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

ART, MUSIC, AND LITURGY

Art: JESUS MAFA. The Ascension, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48398> [retrieved May 11, 2026]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

Music: Unless otherwise noted, music is reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-700457 and CCLI #2840035. Liturgical music: Liturgy music, WOV setting 5. Composers of liturgical music for WOV are: Daniel Lallman (b. 1956), Jeremy Young (b. 1948), Robert Buckley Farlee (b. 1950), and J. Bert Carlson (b.1937).

Liturgy: The Confession Faith and The Eucharistic prayer were written for the congregation of Abiding Peace by Serena Rice. Liturgy ELW setting 3 was reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress under License #14239-LIT., Used by permission. .

Keep These Friends in Your Prayers: Those who are sick or in need: Joshua Olsen, Jon, Cheryl Inglin, Judy Consentino, Jon & Maria, Sandy Kahler, Karen Qualls, Jim Tangen, Don Larsen, Joseph Horn, Ryan Manhardt, Grace Bessasparis, Jackson Cook, Donna Fahy, Jeanne Scalora, Valeriy Braginetz, Jennifer Kahler, Mark Dennis, John Corneilson, Karen & Ken Predmore, David Breault, Charles Wetzell, Patricia Coats, Alia Duffy, Aimee Nilsen, Lydia Millner, Dean Kowal, April Inglin, Bella Adams, Bodhi Maslow, Barbara P, Susan & William Swainy, Scott Schaefer, George Schroeder, Sibylle Scheiermann, Leslie Picinich, Hailey Ochs Plante, Kate Draven, Dawn Huber, Heinz, Ellen Parker, Vicki Gentler, Carol Baker, Shariff Stewart, Lisa Wolper, Maxine Wolper, Samy Dawood, David Laird, Peter Jensen, Joan Lewis, Jose, Brian Henkel, Judy Day, Mary Beth Mueller, Joseph DeSantis, Jenn DiDino, Nancy Tullo, Sue Corneilson, Mary & Gene Kasakove, Barb Phinney, Sarah Laird, Judy Wayman, Willey Langley, Courtney & Austin Eddington, and Carol Schenck.

Those in mourning: Evelyn Jorgensen and family mourning the lost of her half-brother, Rüdiger; Ellen Lewis and family mourning the loss of Mike Lewis; The Persson Family on the loss of Kayla; Those mourning Dan Filin (partner of Pastor Serena's mom); The family of Dawn Parks; The loved ones of Carole Ernstrom; Those mourning Maria's mother, Juanita; The friends and family of Kenneth Johanson; The friends and family of the Benoit family who suddenly lost their daughter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Church office hours:** Pastor Serena will generally hold office hours on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Please check the weekly bulletin and Monday e-blast for alterations in her schedule. She is also available for pastoral care by phone, zoom or other means on other days (Saturday is her day off). If you have a need to access the church building, please contact Pastor Serena.

- **Food Pantry Needs for Spring:** Parmalat milk, fruit, juice, hot dogs & buns, frozen meatballs, mashed potatoes, rice, crackers, cake mixes, gluten-free pasta.

- **Altar Flowers:** Please consider signing up for altar flower donations. Price: \$17.50. If interested please sign up by the last Sunday of the prior month. You may sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex or send an email to Catherine Belfiore (aplcbuddlake@gmail.com) with your dedication and the date you want the flowers on the altar and send your check to the church.

- **Interested in hosting a coffee hour?** Not hard. Just bring some store-bought baked goods. Coffee is already prepared ahead of time by the Altar Guild. Questions: Call Demetria Laird at 973-398-9614.

This week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, May 17:

- Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. - In-person and Live-streamed
- Sunday School
- Council Meeting, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Monday, May 18:

Tuesday, 19:

Wednesday, May 20:

- Senior's Ministry, Kentucky Derby Race 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- AA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 21:

Friday, May 22:

Saturday, May 23:

- Zumba, 9:00 a.m.

Next week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, May 24:

- Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. - In-person and Live-streamed
- Discussion of the Creeds in Worship, 11:45 a.m.

Monday, May 25:

Tuesday, May 26:

Wednesday, May 27:

- Newsletter Deadline
- AA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 28:

Friday, May 29:

Saturday, May 30:

- Zumba, 9:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 7, 2026, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. - Pride Party @ Turkey Brook Park

Sunday, June 14, 2026, 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. - NW Cluster Congregational Picnic

For all live-streamed services, click (or type) the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/AbidingPeaceChurch/live>

Translation of “Cantique” by Maurice Maeterlinck

To every soul that weeps,
To every sin that passes,
Amidst the stars, I open
My hands full of grace.

No sin can live
When love has spoken;
No soul can die
When love has wept.

And if love gets lost
On earthly paths below,
Its tears will find me
And it will not be lost.