



**South Aiken Presbyterian Church**  
**1711 Whiskey Rd.**  
**Aiken, SC 29803**



## Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

8:45 am and 11:00 am

(Please stand, if able when indicated by an \*)

Prelude

Scott Chappell

Welcome & Announcements

Steve Stine

**The Chiming** (*Handbell rung three times, one for God the Father, for the Son, and for the Holy Spirit*)

Introit

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

Ensemble Choir

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**\*Call to Worship** (*Psalm 22: 25-28*) (*Responsively*):

One: From you comes our praise in the great congregation; our vows we will pay before those who fear God.

**Many: The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord shall praise the LORD.**

One: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before the Lord.

**ALL: For dominion belongs to the LORD, and the Lord rules over the nations.**

**\*Hymn # 475**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come, thou fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

**Prayer of Confession (*Unison*):**

**Gracious God, we confess that we want the easy way, the comfortable way, and the way we know. Sometimes, in this changing world, our grief turns into rebellion. Sometimes we prevent change and choose not to be led by the Holy Spirit. Forgive us for not seeking you in the changes. Help us by your Holy Spirit to choose to listen to your leading through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*(in silence confess personal sins).*

PA: Amen.

PA: As the water is poured into the font, let us remember we are forgiven and called to grow in the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Let us walk by faith.

**The Font** (*pouring of the water*)

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Special Music**

***“O Rest in the Lord”***

**Mendelssohn**

**Marlee Hare, Soloist**

**The Peace** (*Responsively*) (8:45 am and 11:00 am)

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

**Children’s Moment** (8:45am)

**Michelle Lorio**

(11:00 am Children are asked to remain in the pews until led by Michelle to Children’s Church)

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD**

**Anthem**

***Come, Holy Spirit***

**Ensemble Choir**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture:**

**Gospel Lesson:**

**Acts 8: 26-40**

One: Hear what the Spirit says to the Church.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

***“Discovering the Other”***

**Rev. Jason Hammersley**

*\*Hymn #288*

*Spirit of the Living God (sung as directed)*

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**\*Affirmation of Faith: A Brief Statement of Faith** (*excerpt*)

**In life and in death we belong to God. We trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Prayer of Intercession** (*This prayer is a response to the proclamation, an interceding for all the Church, the world, the community, and our loved ones.*)

**Offering of Tithes and Gifts** (*Collection plates are in the Narthex. Online Giving is available at [www.southaiken.org](http://www.southaiken.org) or by mail to SAPC, 1711 Whiskey Rd., Aiken, SC 29803*)

**Mother's Day Offering**

**Sandy Haines**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving with the Lord's Prayer**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

**SENDING INTO THE WORLD**

**\*Hymn #739**

*O for a Closer Walk with God*

**O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame,  
a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!**

**Return, O holy Dove, return, sweet messenger of rest!  
I hate the sins that made me mourn and drove thee from my breast.**

**The clearest idol I have known, whate'er that idol be,  
help me to tear it from thy throne, and worship only thee.**

**So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame;  
so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.**

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

**Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

**CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION**

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*Please turn off your phone during the service*

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<https://m.facebook.com/SouthAikenPresChurch/>

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