

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Email: [info@fpcmankato.org](mailto:info@fpcmankato.org) | Web: [fpcmankato.org](http://fpcmankato.org) | Facebook: [facebook.com/FPCmankato](https://facebook.com/FPCmankato)

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**May 18, 2025**

*\*This service is being livestreamed Prelude through Postlude, and is available for public viewing.*

*Meditation*

*"The religion of Jesus makes the love-ethic central...Every person is potentially every other person's neighbor because they are both children of God, bearers of God's image."*

*~ Howard Thurman*

**PRELUDE**

Ben Marti

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Eric Garner

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 17:6-8; 18:31-32, 46

Pastor Eric Garner

I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words.

**Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge.**

Guard me as the apple of the eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.

**For who is God except the Lord? And who is a rock besides our God?**

God has strengthened me and made my way safe.

**The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation.**

**HYMN**

*Come, Great God of All the Ages*

GTG 309

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Pastor Eric Garner

**Creator God,**

**You make all things beautiful in their time,**

**Including we humans who bear your image.**

**And yet we diminish your likeness**

**In both ourselves and others.**

**We pursue our own visions of power and comfort**

**In conflict with your purposes for our world.**

**Lead us back to right paths**

**Where we dignify your image in all people**

**And live to be a blessing to this world.**

**Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYER**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor Eric Garner

Jesus Christ has made our God's love visible to us! Having received the Holy Spirit, may you have confidence that this love will never end! You are the beloved of God!

In the name of Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

**GLORIA***Gloria*

8

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly — Ghost; as it was in the be -

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

8

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

Ben Marti and Dr. Andrew Kendall

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor Eric Garner

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Lizz Kendall

**SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

9

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. — Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Numbers 21:5-9

Paul Peterson

**5** The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” **6** Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. **7** The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. **8** And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” **9** So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**1** In the third year of King Hoshea son of Elah of Israel, Hezekiah son of King Ahaz of Judah began to reign. **2** He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign; he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi daughter of Zechariah. **3** He did what was right in the sight of the Lord, just as his ancestor David had done. **4** He removed the high places, broke down the pillars, and cut down the sacred pole. He broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it; it was called Nehushtan. **5** He relied on the Lord, the God of Israel, so that there was no one like him among all the kings of Judah after him or among those who were before him. **6** For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following him but kept the commandments that the Lord had commanded Moses.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Images, Icons, and Idols*

Pastor Eric Garner

HYMN

*O Lord, Our God, How Excellent*

GTG 25

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Eric Garner

**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.**

CALL FOR OFFERING AND DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God all crea-tures here be low; praise

God, a-bove ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor Eric Garner

POSTLUDE

Ben Marti

## CONNECT CARDS

If you are visiting with us today, please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card located in the pew in front of you, then place it in the offering plate when it's passed. We want to get to know and welcome you to FPC!



*Thank you, Lizz Kendall and members of the Faith Formation Committee, for sponsoring this Sunday's worship flowers!*

*If you are interested in sponsoring the Sunday worship flowers, please sign up on the FPC website, or call the church office and we'd be glad to help get you signed up!*

## CALENDAR

- Sunday, May 18:** 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Families Connect!  
Sibley Park
- Sunday, May 18:** 11:00 a.m.  
WiredWord  
FPC Library
- Sunday, May 18:** 11:00 a.m.  
New Member Meeting ~ lunch and childcare provided  
FPC History Room, next to the Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, May 18:** 11:15 a.m.  
Deacons Meeting  
FPC Multipurpose Room
- Wednesday, May 21:** 6:00 p.m.  
Session Meeting  
FPC Multipurpose Room
- Monday, May 26:** All Day  
Church Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

### **Eric Garner, Pastor and Head of Staff**

#### **FPC Session ~ Elders**

Jim Connors, President | Brad Leiding, Treasurer | Joyce Prahm, Clerk of Session  
April Austin, Worship | Theo Black, Budget | Sophie Hoiseth, Stewardship and Faith Formation  
Lynn Kuechle, Community Engagement | Kelly McBride, Properties | Paul Peterson, Personnel

#### **FPC Board of Deacons**

Mark Taylor, Moderator | Derek Fette, Treasurer | Chris Renne, Secretary  
Karen Anderson | Nancy Black | Amily Crowell | Deb Kienholz | Mari Lopez  
Annette McGinness | Mary Jane Petersen | Marcia Richards | Jeanne Steiner

#### **FPC Staff**

Ben Marti, Organist | Andrew Kendall, DMA, Choir Director  
Lizz Kendall, Director of Outreach and Faith Formation  
Mark Zallek, Building Manager | Lori Olson, Administrative Assistant