

Potsdam United Methodist Church



The Way to Follow
5th Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026

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Celebrating the Gift of Christ's Resurrection in Potsdam United Methodist Church

Large print bulletins and listening assistive devices are available, *Please stand, whether in body or in spirit

At Potsdam UMC, all persons are welcome and celebrated regardless of gender, culture, nationality, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic circumstance, age, physical and mental ability, marital status or family structure.

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS / SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

*Jesus, The very thought of thee ~ by John B. Dykes,
arr. by Rebecca Belliston*

As we listen to the prelude, take time for quiet contemplation and prayer

INTROIT

Come And See [TFWS 2127]

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In the midst of our questions and doubts, Jesus answers:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1st READING

The Acts of the Apostles 7:55-60

OPENING PRAYER

L: Faithful God, you are our refuge and our strength, a mighty fortress in a world of chaos and turmoil. Protect us, but also encourage us to be brave. Strengthen us to face this world and to make it a better place. Inspire our worship, that in this time we may deepen our faith and place our trust in you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

UMH #545

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 31:1-16

UMH #764

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: 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.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH SONG...

CHOIR ANTHEM

Come Holy Spirit ~ by Gordon Young

... AND THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH WORD!

READING FROM THE GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

THE MESSAGE

The Way to Follow Guest Preacher Rev. Carl Chamberlain

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN**

Be Still, My Soul

UMH #534

THE PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (UMH #270)

Responding to God's invitation, in joy, we offer our gifts

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Arise, O Glorious Zion ~ by George Careless,
arr. by Laurel Hunt Pedersen*

***THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH #94

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(John 10:1-10)

All: Way-Making God, your offer to us is not just to believe in heaven, but to live the kingdom life here and now. Through Jesus, you show us the way, the truth, and the life - calling us to deeper trust, wider welcome, and greater works of grace.

As we bring our gifts, we step into that life, choosing generosity over fear and hope over judgment. Use these offerings, and use us, to make your dwelling places visible in our community, in our compassion, in our courage. We give, because we've heard your voice. In Christ's name. Amen

COMMUNION HYMN

Be Present at Our Table, Lord

UMH # 621

A SERVICE OF WORD & TABLE: THE GREAT THANKSGIVING UMH #15

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN**

We Are the Church

UMH #558

***THE BENEDICTION**

All: May God bless you as you leave this place to follow the Way, to seek after the Truth, and to rejoice in the Life of the Triune God who draws us together and sends us out to be agents of Resurrection life in a hurting world. Amen.

POSTLUDE

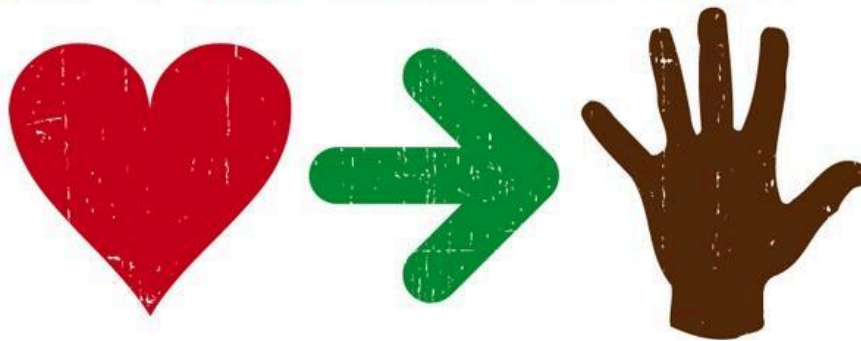
Water Walk ~ by Adrienne Foster Potter

Go forward, to live the church, in ministry to all the world!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We are secure, not because we hold tightly to Jesus, but because He holds tightly to us.
R.C. Sproul

LOVE. GO. SERVE.



Resources used with permission:

Cover photo: David Orr

Call to Worship: *Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries*

Opening Prayer: *Ministry Matters for April 3, 2026*

Offertory prayer: *John 14:1-14*

Assurance of Forgiveness: *Beth Merrill Neil*

Benediction: *Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries*

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SPECIAL SERVICES



+ **The Good Cup:** Enjoy conversation and a “cuppa” with Pastor Heidi & Pastor Carl, Wednesdays at noon at Jernabi Coffee House.

+ **Coffee & Jesus:** will continue Mid-May with a study based on *The Chosen*. Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Watch for details.

- **Super Church Sunday School:** Today, May 3rd.
- **Pastor Heidi** will be away May 2nd - May 12th. **Rev. Carl Chamberlain** will fill the pulpit and provide pastoral care while she is away.
- **Church Council Meeting:** Monday, May 18th, 10:30am, in the carpeted room downstairs.

Worship Participants

Microphone: Norm Gardner

Acolytes: Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish

Counters

Readers

May 3: Tom Ortmeyer, Christa Carroll
 May 10: Carrie Livernois, Tom Ortmeyer
 May 17: Christa Carroll, Debby Nikkari
 May 24: Robin Howard, Carrie Livernois
 May 31: Debby Nikkari, Robin Howard

May 3: Sharon Hutchinson
 May 10: Collen Gondo
 May 17: Tom Ortmeyer
 May 24: Christa Carroll
 May 31: Kathy Demo

Greeters/Ushers

Fellowship Time Hosts

May 3: Nancy Matthews
 May 10: Carrie Livernois
 May 17: Kathy Demo
 May 24: Norm Gardner
 May 31: Carrie Livernois

May 3: Carol Willmert
 June 7: Sue and John Loope
 July 5: Ashley Fish and Family
 Aug. 2: Carrie Livernois
 Sept. 6: Robin Howard & Judy Haer
 Oct. 4: Sue and John Loope

Pastor: Heidi Chamberlain

Musician: Dr. Risa Okina ♦ Choir Director: Anthony Steen

Guest Preacher ~ Rev. Carl Chamberlain

Potsdam United Methodist Church ♦ 26 Main Street, Potsdam NY 13676

Pastor's Office Hours as scheduled with Pastor Heidi Chamberlain

To schedule a pastoral conversation please call: 315-528-4709 (cell) **OR** the Church office: 315-265-7474

Pastor Heidi: pastorheidi@potsdamumc.org ♦ Church email: info@potsdamumc.org

Website: www.potsdamumc.org ♦ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PotsdamUMCNY>

If you prefer to make your offering electronically you can contribute via [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) - [https://tinyur](https://tinyur.com)