



# ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Morning Worship | Fifth Sunday of Easter | Gospel Music Sunday

May 7, 2023 | 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

## GATHERING

•WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS  
VOLUNTARY

“The Word Was God”  
Chancel Choir

Chris Currie  
Powell

•\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Believing that God so loves this world, **we gather.**  
That it may be reshaped to fulfill God’s purposes, **we pray.**  
To seek a wisdom deeper than our own thoughts, **we listen.**  
To become part of something larger than ourselves, **we labor.**  
To make sense of our lives, **we worship.**  
To make a joyful noise, **we sing.**

Judith Halverson

•\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord our God, we thank you for the rhythms of your grace and the way your mysterious presence causes us to lift up our hearts, make a joyful noise, and come into your presence with singing. May the sights and sounds of our worship be pleasing to you and may what happens here lead us into paths of faithful discipleship to the glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

•†\*HYMN 825

“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”

SWING LOW

•CALL TO CONFESSION

Sarah Chancellor-Watson

•PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**Good and gracious God, it is true that we are sinners and we come before you ever mindful of the ways we have hurt others and not lived up to our common calling in Jesus Christ. But keep us ever mindful of the even greater truth that you choose to see us as your redeemed creatures, not counting our sins against us.**

**As forgiven and redeemed sinners, give us the freedom not to continue in sin as if grace would abound all the more. We pray that you bring new life where we have grown worn and tired; bring new love where we have turned hard-hearted; bring your forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded others; bring joy and freedom where we have become prisoners of our choices and desires.**

**Make us ever mindful of the needs of others, enable us to use our freedom to build up others, and make us as forgiving with others as you are already with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE (*Hymn 821, verse 4*)

“My Life Flows On”

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

**The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to the Rock I’m clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?**

•ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING (*response: Thanks be to God.*)

Proverbs 4:10-18

BLESSING OF GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

•SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (*8:30 only*)

Presentation  
Affirmation of Faith “The Apostles’ Creed” (*unison, Hymnal p. 35*)  
Questions to Parents  
Baptism  
Presentation and Prayer

Benjamin Riggs Nix  
Elizabeth Favret, Presenting Elder

†MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

Russell Steele

•SECOND READING (*response: Thanks be to God.*)

Acts 7:55-60, 8:1

•SERMON

“All God Has to Work With”

Chris Currie

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: “The Nicene Creed” (*unison*)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

•\*GLORIA PATRI, Hymn 581

“Glory Be to the Father”

GLORIA PATRI

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

•THE OFFERING

Offertory

“My Soul Is a River”  
The Chancel Choir

arr. Allaway

(cont.)

•SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table  
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer (*Hymnal, page 35*)  
Words of Institution  
Communion of the People  
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

- \*HYMN 837 "What a Fellowship, What Joy Divine" SHOWALTER
- \*CHARGE AND BLESSING
- \*CHORAL RESPONSE "An Irish Blessing" Blackmon
- \*VOLUNTARY

IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

TODAY'S USHERS for the 8:30 service are Mayson Buffington, Miriam Hollar, Thomas Schulingkamp, and Wesley Simon; and for the 10:30 service are Rick Grubb (captain), Randy Evans, Jackie Derks, Carro Gardner, Mimi Koch, and JoNell Quinton.

TODAY'S ACOLYTES for the 10:30 service are Nina Edgecombe and Liam Kennedy.

SERVING COMMUNION at the 8:30 service are Beth Poe and Bob Smith; and for the 10:30 service are Eric Holtzman and Ann Van Horn.



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM  
IS BEING ADMINISTERED TODAY TO  
**BENJAMIN RIGGS NIX,**  
SON OF MOLLY COX NIX  
AND JOHN MORRIS NIX.

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sutter and Thomas M. Sutter, Jr., by Charlotte Sutter Hoggatt.

THIS MORNING WE BLESS OUR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOLERS: Sophie Frankowski (Ben Franklin/NOCCA to Cornell), Finley Hardie (Brother Martin to University of Denver), Madeline Heymann (The Willow School to Louisiana State University), Tucker Joseph (Newman to University of South Carolina), Molly Kane (Morris Jeff to Illinois State University), Avery Kessler (Christ School to College of Charleston), Breanna Marksburly (Mount Carmel to University of Alabama), Molly McLanahan (De La Salle to Millsaps), Jack Morton (Country Day to Clemson), Brittain Paull (The Willow School to Louisiana State University), Boyd Pugh (The Willow School to University of Massachusetts Amherst), Will Scofield (De La Salle to Colorado State University), and Sophie Therapondos (De La Salle to University of Mississippi).

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30-10:15 AM | Find class details for all ages at [scapc.org/sunday-school](http://scapc.org/sunday-school).

ADULT CLASSES:

**"Jesus of the East: Reclaiming the Gospel for the Wounded"** | book by Phuc Luu | led by Miriam Hollar  
April 16-May 14 | Land Building, Lakeside Room and Zoom

This class gives us an opportunity to explore Christianity and justice from the Eastern Christianity perspective. The author examines his experiences as a Vietnamese immigrant, as well as others who live between pain and hope.

**NEW! Intergenerational Study of Jesus' Miracles** | May 7-May 28 | Frampton Fellowship Hall

Participants of all ages will be assigned a table where we will have discussions, activities, science experiments, and more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For the month of May, Presbyterian Women are collecting items for the PROGRAM OF HOPE HOMELESS MINISTRY at First Presbyterian Church. Requested items include rain ponchos to hand out during the summer months, and reading glasses, either new or used in any strength. The collection basket is located at the State Street entrance to the Chapel.

VOLUNTEER WITH COMMUNITY TABLE: Every fourth Monday, SCAPC teams up with Bethlehem Lutheran Church (1823 Washington Ave.) to help serve a meal for their "Community Table" Ministry. Volunteers meet 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. to prep and package food. We meet at Bethlehem Lutheran (1823 Washington Ave.) at 10 a.m. to start prep work. Teams are 3-4 people, so grab your friends and sign up today by contacting Pastor Sarah at [sarah@scapc.org](mailto:sarah@scapc.org).

Last week the SPIRITUALLY HUNGRY WOMEN began a six-week study of *Faith Unraveled: How a Girl Who Knew All the Answers Started Asking Questions* by Rachel Held Evans. This group meets weekly from 12:30-1:45 on Wednesdays in the Land Building and via Zoom. All women are welcome! For more information, contact Beth Poe, [bethpoe@tulane.edu](mailto:bethpoe@tulane.edu).

WEDNESDAY NIGHT OUT begins each week with a pastor-led study, **"The Book of Acts: Jesus Is Risen...Now What?"** at 5:15 in the Phifer Library, followed by dinner at 6:00 in Frampton Fellowship Hall. This week is our **Summer Reading Book Exchange**. Bring your favorite book to share with a new reader! On the menu will be lasagna, broccoli, Caesar salad, fresh fruit, garlic bread, cheese pizza for kids, and banana pudding. Dinner reservations are required by tomorrow at 5 p.m. at [scapc.org/wno](http://scapc.org/wno).

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: SCAPC's Carrollton Camp for children ages 6-12 will be July 17-21 and 24-28 at Noble Minds School, 1333 S. Carrollton Avenue. We are recruiting students to help out as class guides or reading teachers from 9:00 until 3 or 4:00 and earn service hours in the process. For details, contact Pastor Sarah at [sarah@scapc.org](mailto:sarah@scapc.org).