

Clinton First United Methodist Church
Order of Worship for May 10, 2026
Sixth Sunday of Easter (White)
Sermon: "Not Left Orphaned"
Pastor Ashlée Vitz

Scriptures: [Ezekiel 34:1-7](#) [Psalm 115:1-11, 18b](#) [1 Peter 3:13-22](#) [John 14:15-21](#)

Gathering

Praise Team

["I Could Sing of Your Love Forever"](#)

["The Lord of the Dance"](#)

["Majesty"](#)

UMH #261

UMH #176

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship: God calls us first; we respond together as participants, not spectators.

Easter people, no matter the bends and curves in our path, Jesus does not leave us alone on this journey of faith.

God gives us the Spirit, our Advocate and Helper.

The Spirit lives in and among us, pointing us all toward the way, the truth, and the life of Jesus.

God gives us the Spirit, our Guide and Guardian.

The Spirit draws us into God's story, showing us how to cooperate in writing God's dream into reality.

God gives us the Spirit, our Dream-Giver and Story-Keeper.

Easter people, God's story abides in you, calling you to live as co-creators of love and abundant life.

We come to worship God and listen for the Spirit who inspires, guides, and helps us join in God's story, until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. Amen

Response Song / Opening Hymn

["Holy, Holy, Holy"](#)

UMH #64

Opening Prayer

We center everything in God, naming our desire to be present with Him. God of all time and space, you initiated the relationship of love and generosity with creation at a time before and beyond all knowing. Through the Word and the Spirit, you continue in eternal love for all beings. Fill us with a deep and abiding awareness of your presence, your call, and your grace in our lives and in our world. Shape us into the people you have made us to be – poured out in creative mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ in all creation. Amen.

Reading of the Psalms

The Psalms are the prayers of God's people spoken across generations. So before we bring our own joys and concerns, we join our voices with theirs, connecting us with those who love the Lord across time!

[Psalm 115](#)

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Response to the Psalm

We respond to a Psalm of praise with musical joy!
“[Trust and Obey](#)”

UMH #467

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

We bring real life into worship, trusting God with our joys and our burdens.

Pastoral Prayer

We collectively lift our spoken and unspoken prayers, trusting God hears and responds.

Passing of the Peace

We share Christ's peace, remembering we do not walk this journey alone.

Proclamation and Response

This is the second out of three parts of our service, called proclamation and response. This is when we listen for God's Word and respond with our lives.

Old Testament Reading

This is when we remember the story of God's people and our shared spiritual history.

[Ezekiel 34:1-7](#)

The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Response Song

Hearing Scripture invites a response of praise, and we do this in song!
“[Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us](#)”

UMH #381

New Testament Reading

This is when we connect the early Church's witness to our lives today.

[1 Peter 3:13-22](#)

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Response Song

We affirm that God's Word shapes how we live, so we respond to our New Testament reading in song!

[“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”](#)

TFWS #2223

Gospel Reading

We have come to our Gospel reading! Gospel actually means good news!

So we stand for the Gospel reading to honor the Good News of Jesus Christ, who is present and speaking to us through these words. The reading of the Gospel is when we center on the life and teachings of Jesus: The very heart and soul of our faith!

[John 14:15–21](#)

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Response to the Gospel: This is when we honor Christ and acknowledge the Good News we have received. So we respond with a prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession: This is when we respond honestly to God, bringing our whole selves before Him.

Eternal God, Creator of all that is, In you, we live and move and have our being. You have placed us on earth and sustained our being through the produce of the land and the cleanness of the air we breathe. You have made us for each other, to tend and care for the weak and ensure a just sharing of the earth's resources. But we are part of a proud and hard-hearted people who hoard what the earth provides and seem loathe to share the fruits of our labors, who live for today with little thought for tomorrow, who are afraid to let pain and suffering affect us. Incarnate God, you know us in our inner being. In your grace, you offer us forgiveness even before we have the chance to articulate our sorrow. You embrace us in all our sinfulness And, in doing so, give us the chance to start again to learn from the example you have given us in Jesus, who chose the way of the Cross that all might know the depth of your love for all you have made. Spirit of God, open our hearts and minds that we may grasp your forgiveness, and forgiven, seek to forgive others and to live a life of reconciling love modelled on the example of Jesus Christ, in whose name we make this prayer. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

This is when we receive the Good News that we are forgiven and made new!

Hear the good news:

The God who created us and called us to care for one another does not abandon us when we fall short. Like a faithful shepherd, God seeks us, restores us, and gathers us back in love. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and made new— not by our own effort, but by the grace that goes before us, the mercy that meets us where we are, and the love that leads us forward. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God. Amen.

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| Children’s Sermon | “Never Let Go” | “ Jesus Loves Me ” |
| Teen Time | “Not Left on Read” | |
| Sermon | “Not Left Orphaned” | Pastor Ashlée Vitz |

Response to the Word
We respond to what we’ve heard, not leaving unchanged.

“[Look Up Child](#)”

SPECIAL HOLIDAY MOMENT Eric Weeks
As we hold onto that promise—that we are not left orphaned, that we are held in the love of God—we also recognize that today carries many different emotions. For some, it is a day of celebration. For others, it is more complicated. So we want to take a moment to honor this day with care and honesty.

SENDING FORTH
This is the third of our three parts of worship.
This is when we prepare to carry worship into the world as people sent by God.

Offering
“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” [2 Corinthians 9:7](#)

Peace be with you. God only asks for what your heart is moved to give. No pressure. No guilt. No shame. No blame. God is love.

[Doxology](#)
(A Doxology is just a short expression of praise to God.)
We praise God as the source of every blessing!

UMH #95

Closing Song
We sing as people being sent, united in purpose and mission.

“[I Am a Child of God](#)”

Benediction

We receive a blessing and are sent to live out our faith.

Go now to love and serve God in the blessing of the Spirit who journeys with you as we live the unfolding story of God's dream for creation here and now. Amen.

Postlude

["You Will Be Found"](#)