

Clinton First United Methodist Church
Order of Worship for May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter (White)
Sermon: “Walking the Way”
Pastor Ashlée Vitz

Scriptures: [Proverbs 4:10-18](#), [Psalm 119:9-20](#), [1 Peter 2:2-10](#), [John 14:1-14](#)

Gathering

We transition from everyday life into awareness of God’s presence—together.

Praise Music

[“Are You Washed?”](#)

[“Do Lord”](#)

[“I’ll Fly Away”](#)

[“Come, Now is the Time to Worship”](#)

[“He Touched Me”](#)

Lighting of the Candles

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

God calls us first; we respond together as participants, not spectators.

Easter people, in the midst of our questions and doubts, Jesus answers:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

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

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

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

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

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

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

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

Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen

Response Song / Opening Hymn

Worship is active, so we respond to God’s call with praise and unity.

Opening Prayer

Ever-gracious, Way-Making God, we celebrate the gifts of your Spirit. You have not fed us a diet of shame or shrinking, but with the milk of your truth, you have made us strong and faithful servants of Christ. You call us to take up the mantle of justice and to follow wherever faith leads us. You fill us with strength and hope, and you invite us to share in the cost and joys of discipleship. You promise us splendor and beauty in this life and in the world to come. Meet us here, we pray, that your word will be fulfilled in our hearing and that your Spirit will fill us with courage. 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!

Quick Vocabulary Guide ([Psalm 119](#))

- Law of the Lord – God’s guidance for how to live
- Decrees – God’s teachings or instructions
- Precepts – wise guidelines for living
- Statutes – God’s established ways or principles
- Ordinances – what God says is right and just
- Meditate – to think deeply about; reflect on

[Psalm 119](#)

“The Glories of God’s Law”

Response to the Psalm

We respond to a Psalm of praise with musical joy!

[“How Great Thou Art”](#)

[“Canticle of the Turning”](#)

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.

[Happy Day](#)

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.

[Proverbs 4:10-18](#)

“Admonition to Keep to the Right Path”

Response Song

Hearing Scripture invites a response of praise, and we do this in song!

[“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”](#)

UMH #514

[“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”](#)

TFWS #2129

New Testament Reading

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

[1 Peter 2:2-10](#)

God's chosen people

Response Song

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

[“I Need Thee Every Hour”](#)

UMH #397

[“This Little Light of Mine”](#)

UMH #585

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 14:1-14](#)

“Christ the way, truth, life”

Response to the Gospel

This is when we honor Christ and acknowledge the Good News we have received. So once again, we respond in song, this time to the reading of the gospel message!

Prayer of Confession

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

Merciful God We claim that you sent Jesus to us to take away the sin of the world and to say that we are part of that sin. Maybe our small errors add up; or maybe there is no degree to sin, that one is as hurtful as another. Help us not to dwell on vocabulary. Help us not to focus on what sin means but to acknowledge that we do things that hurt other people, and the creation, and ourselves, and you. Come into our hearts, then, and give us strength and courage to be less hurtful and more loving. These things we pray in the name of Jesus, who showed us how this is done. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

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

Pastor: 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 at peace. People: Alleluia! Amen.

Children’s Sermon

“The Right Way to Go”

[Jesus Loves the Little Children](#)

Teen Time

[The Chosen: Jesus Calls Matthew \(HD\) Deeper Questions](#)

[Sermon](#)

“Walking the Way”

Pastor Ashlée Vitz

This is when Scripture, community, and real life meet, inviting transformation no matter where each of us is on our faith journey!

Response to the Word

We respond to what we’ve heard, not leaving unchanged. Today we respond by gathering around a table of love and grace!

THE TABLE (HOLY COMMUNION)

We celebrate the Great Feast that Jesus told us to have in remembrance of Him! It is a joyful time of unity and community!

The UMC celebrates an OPEN TABLE!

This is Christ’s table, and He invites all to it!

And all means all!

“Whoever comes to me I will in no way throw out.” — [John 6:37](#)

Table Part 1

Invitation to the Table

We are invited not because we are perfect, but because Christ meets us in grace.

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love Him,

Who earnestly repent of their sin

And seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another

Table Part 2

Confession & Pardon

We confess together because resurrection begins with honesty and is fulfilled in grace.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us.” — [1 John 1:9](#)

People: Most merciful God, We confess we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; By what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We are truly sorry, And we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, Have mercy on us, And forgive us; That we may delight in your will, And walk in your ways. To the glory of your name, Amen.

Pastor to People: Hear the Good News! Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; That proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People to Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Table Part 3

The Great Thanksgiving

We give thanks over the bread and cup, remembering God’s saving work and celebrating the risen Christ.

“He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them.” — [Luke 22:19](#)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, Always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven We praise your name And join their unending hymn:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Holy are you
And blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
You gave birth to your church, Delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
And made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself
up for us He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, Gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. “

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and
said: “Drink from this, All of you; This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and
for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise
and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died; Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine
make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of
Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Table Part 4

Sharing the Bread and Cup

We receive the elements as a tangible sign that resurrection is not just a story; it is given to us;
and we delight in the joy of communion through music.

“Because there is one loaf of bread, we, who are many, are one body.” [1 Corinthians 10:17](#)

[“Way Maker”](#)

Pastor: Please come down the aisle, receive the bread, dip it in the cup, and remember that
God’s love is for all...and all means all! You are known by name by the creator of the universe,
and the Divine’s message to you is that you are so very loved, you are so very wanted, and you
are so very adored. You will always be a child of God, no matter what! Won’t you come and
remember God’s love for you?

Table Part 5

Prayer After Communion

We give thanks and ask for strength to live as resurrection people in the world.

“They recognized him in the breaking of the bread.” — Luke 24:35

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

[Lord's Prayer](#)

SENDING FORTH

This is when we prepare to carry worship into the world as people sent by God.

Offering

We give in gratitude, responding to God's grace in our lives.

["Take My Life and Let It Be"](#)

UMH #399

"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](#)

UMH #95

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

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"

[James 1:17](#) — "Every generous act... is from above"

"Praise Him, all creatures here below"

[Psalm 150](#) — "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord"

"Praise Him above, ye heavenly host"

[Luke 2:13](#) — heavenly hosts praising God

"Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost"

[Matthew 28:19](#) — [Trinitarian language](#)

Closing Hymn

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

["Lead On, O King Eternal"](#)

UMH #580

["Here I Am Lord"](#)

UMH #593

Benediction

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

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.

Now, beloveds, let's step out together as a community, following the path of Jesus!

Postlude

[Step in Time](#)