

**LORD'S PRAYER**

*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.*

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

*All are welcome at Christ's table. The cup is offered as red wine, and white grape juice.  
You may place your empty cup in the baskets on the first pews.*

**COMMUNION MUSIC**

**Bread of the World**

**Jack Brooks**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul; and forget not all God's benefits.  
Lead us, O God, to confirm this world to your kingdom of love, justice and peace. Help us to  
live as the Lord requires: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you, our  
God. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with  
all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm.  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are  
yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.*

**—Sending—**

**\*HYMN #547**

**Go, My Children, with My Blessing**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**Lord, Dismiss Us**

**Jack Brooks**

*You may be seated after the light passes you in the aisle.*



Debbi Ricci.....Administrative Assistant  
Jack Brooks .....Guest Organist

*Serving God,  
Honoring Creation,  
Embracing Differences*



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and provided for free distribution.



(\*) Please rise in body or in spirit

*Bold Italic Letters* indicate congregational response

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HENDERSON, TX

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ COMMUNION SUNDAY

MAY 3, 2026

— Gathering —

Near to the Heart of God

Jack Brooks

Liturgist: Carol Scoggins

PRELUDE

WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God refuses to shame us. God's justice delivers us.

*Praise God, in whom we seek shelter and guidance!*

Our God listens to us. God rescues us from danger.

*Praise God, in whom we seek shelter and guidance!*

Our God renews our spirits. God is always faithful.

*Praise God, in whom we seek shelter and guidance!*

We trust our God. Let us worship God, whom we call ours.

*Praise God, in whom we seek shelter and guidance!*

\*HYMN#35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*God of compassionate mercy, your grace and love extend to all people. We are called to forgive others, as you forgive us. Far too often, however, we wield forgiveness like a weapon. We see others doing wrong and feel haughty when we grant them grace. We call out the sins of the powerful but fail to notice our own power. We become narrow in our quest for truth, and ignore other people, in other rooms, crying out for your justice. Help us search ourselves and seek forgiveness from those we have made beg us for mercy. Connect us to others and guide us to share power and grace as we follow you.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI #581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;*

*as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

—Word—

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 24:19-22

Bible p. 173, LG p. 225

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 4:32-35

Bible p. 114, Lg p. 148

The word of God for the people of God.

*Thanks be to God*

SERMON

The Church Cares

Rev. Steve Newton

—Response—

\*HYMN #498

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (excerpted from portions of the Belhar Confession)

*We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through the Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.*

*We believe:*

- that God has revealed Godself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people*
- that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged*
- that God calls the church to follow them in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry*
- that God frees the prisoner, supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, and blocks the path of the ungodly*
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream*  
*Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.*  
*To the one and only God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

...Living God,

*Hear our prayer.*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

I've Got Peace Like a River

Jack Brooks

\*DOXOLOGY #607

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Christ, all people here below;*

*Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

—The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper —

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*It is right to give our thanks and praise.*