



May 26, 2024 9:30 a.m.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**



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# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, May 26, 2024

## Joys and Concerns

Sharla Hulseley

*In order to respect privacy, joys and concerns will be discussed before the public livestream. Please fill out a prayer request form and place in the offering tray during communion.*

## Welcome and Announcements

Diana Rich, Elder

*If you are joining Sunday worship via Facebook Live, let us know you are tuning in by leaving a comment on the live stream video or visit [fccbutler.org](http://fccbutler.org) and click the Register Attendance button.*

## **WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD**

### Prelude

Mary Coffman & Lynda Perkins

*Bringing the Light of Christ into the Sanctuary*

### \*Call to worship (please rise as able)

Diana Rich & Congregation

Psalm 27:1, 14

L: The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

**P: The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

L: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!

**P: Wait for the LORD;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage.  
Wait for the LORD!**

### \*Opening Hymn

CH #714 (All)

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

### \*Invocation

Diana Rich & Congregation

**To you, God of creation, we sing a new song of praise.  
A song of trees planted by streams of living water,  
a song of mountains clapping their hands for joy,  
a song of cities delighting in heavenly harmony,  
a song of people that were lost and have been found.  
For the earth is the Lord's, and we shall be glad in it.  
Hallelujah! Amen.**

### Prayer Hymn

CH #636 (1,3,5)

“Abide with Me”

## Silent Meditation

### Pastoral Prayer - “The Lord's Prayer”

Sharla Hulseley

**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.**

### Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

### Responsive Reading

Diana Rich & Congregation

Psalm 63:1-8 (*United Methodist Hymnal*)

L: O God, you are my God, I seek you,  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you.

**P: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.**

L: Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.

**P: So I will bless you as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands and call on your Name.**

L: My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,  
when I think of you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

**P: for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.  
My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.**

### Special Reading

“Defining a Hero” by Jennifer Jolly

Chuck Lewis

Carol Ann Winburn

### Scripture

*Psalm 1*

Lyssa Lile

### Message

“Sometimes I sits and thinks...”

Sharla Hulseley

### Invitation to Discipleship

Sharla Hulseley

### \*Invitation Hymn

CH #588 (1,3,4)

“Have Thou Own Way, Lord!”

### Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

Offering Meditation Diana Rich

Tithes & Offerings Diaconate  
*Offering trays will be passed in the pews.*

\*Doxology CH #47  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication Diana Rich

Call to Communion Sharla Hulsey

Communion Hymn CH #601 (1,3,4)  
 “I am Thine, O Lord”

Words of Institution Sharla Hulsey

Communion Prayer Diana Rich

Distribution of the Elements Diaconate  
*Everyone is welcome at Christ’s Table. Those who are comfortable doing so, please come forward down the center aisle to partake at the table. Deacons will serve those who remain seated.*

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\*Benediction Sharla Hulsey  
*Taking the Light of Christ into the World*

\*Closing Hymn CH #677 (1)  
 “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

\* Please rise as able

**SERVING TODAY**

**Pastor:** Sharla Hulsey  
**Elder:** Diana Rich  
**Deacons:** Derek Lile,  
 Kathy Wood

**Greeter:** The Lile family  
**Scripture Reader:** Lyssa Lile  
**Choir Director:** Carol Ann Winburn  
**Accompanist:** Mary Coffman

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **OUTREACH MISSION**  
 This May, we will be supporting the Community Food Pantry with donations of *lunch type food items*. Examples: canned tuna/chicken, peanut butter, jelly, ramen, canned soup, and canned pasta. Bring donations to the church throughout the month. Thank you!
- **KETCH-UP CAMPAIGN**  
 The Stewardship Committee started a “Ketch-up” campaign to help replenish the FCC reserve fund. The goal is \$20,000. Please note on your donation that it is for the “Ketch-Up” campaign.
- **MEMORIAL DAY/OFFICE CLOSED** - Monday, May 27
- **VBS MEETING**– Tuesday, June 4 @ 5 p.m.
- **DISCIPLES WOMEN** - Tuesday, June 4 @ 6:30 p.m.

**THIS WEEK’S EVENTS**

Sunday, May 26:	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Life Group
Monday, May 27:	<b>Memorial Day/Office Closed</b>	
Wednesday, May 29:	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Friday, May 31:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Son Shine Ladies

**NEXT WEEK’S EVENTS**

Sunday, June 2:	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Life Group
Tuesday, June 4:	5:00 p.m.	<b>VBS Meeting</b>
	6:30 p.m.	<b>Disciples Women</b>
Wednesday, June 5:	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Friday, June 7:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Son Shine Ladies

## PRACTICING THE DISCIPLINE OF MEDITATION

*Here are a few suggestions of ways a Christian may meditate. Much of this comes from Richard Foster's book Celebration of Discipline.*

- ◆ *Lectio divina* is a way to meditate on Scripture. It's what we do in the Morning Prayer livestream each day; there are instructions in the materials posted each week on our Facebook page. The idea is to read slowly and let God speak directly to your heart through your reading. You may wish to take a passage like Ephesians 4:32, "...be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you," and spend some time thinking about how you might take it to heart and let it bear fruit in your everyday life.
- ◆ *Ignatian meditation* is another form using Scripture. Take a story from the Bible—stories of Jesus from the Gospels are especially good for this—and place yourself in it. Use your imagination and engage all your senses. For instance, if you read the story of the feeding of the multitude (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17; or John 6:1-15), you might enter the story as one of the people listening to Jesus teach, noticing the other people around you, the sun shining, the sound of the waves on the lake, your hunger, the experience of being able to eat until you were full—a rarity for most people in that time and place.
- ◆ *Centering down*: This is a practice that originated in the Middle Ages but reached its greatest heights among the Society of Friends (Quakers). The idea is to release all of the thoughts and worries that distract you, so you can truly commune with God. One way to do this is through a simple exercise called "palms down, palms up." Place your hands in front of you with palms facing down, symbolizing your desire to turn these concerns over to God. You may wish to pray silently about each one: "I give to you my anger with my neighbor," "Lord, take my worry about the bills coming due next week," and so on. Wait several moments in silence, then turn your palms up, symbolizing your intention to receive something from God. You can pray silently about the things you have released to God and what you might wish to receive: "I would like to receive your divine love for my neighbor," "Give me your peace about my finances," and so on. Again wait in silence. If thoughts or worries intrude, simply notice them and let them go.

- ◆ *Meditation upon creation*: See Psalm 19:1. Go outside and look deeply at the plants, animals, and trees you find there. Notice the texture of the bark on the trees, the symmetry of flower petals (the fractals in the center of a sunflower!), the way the squirrels run and the butterflies flutter, and so on. Listen to the birds singing. Allow creation to declare to you the glory of the Creator.
- ◆ *Love your neighbor*: Think of someone who is part of your life, even if it's a small part. We learn from Genesis 1:26-27 that they are created in God's image, just like you are. Remember they are someone God loves and for whom Christ died, just like you are. Keep in mind that each of us has a unique mixture of "features" and "bugs." Allow this knowledge to help you resolve to treat that person as a person beloved by God the next time you encounter them.

Don't be discouraged if you don't reach great spiritual heights when trying these exercises. Trust instead that God is at work even when you might not feel it.