

Firelands Presbyterian Church

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JESUS MAFA, *The Ascension*

May 17, 2026

Welcome to Firelands Church, a community of believers gathered by the Holy Spirit, growing together in Christ, and committed to serving God. Everyone is encouraged to stay for fellowship following the worship service.

The Order Of The Liturgy

↑ Please stand in body or in spirit ↑

Prelude

I will Serve Thee

Gaither / Bock

He Touched Me

Gaither/ Bock

Even So Lord Jesus Come

Gaither/ Bock

Kyrie

J S Bach

↑ **Call to Worship** ("A Contemporary Celtic Prayer Book", p 19, *responsively*)

Blessed be the Sabbath.

Blessed be God's "shalom."

Blessed be the joy of kinship.

Blessed be the joy of fellowship.

Blessed be the joy of breaking bread.

Blessed be the fruits of fertile earth.

Blessed be God for our kinship

With all peoples everywhere.

And with all creatures of the earth!

God looks upon us all, and it is all very good!

↑ **Hymn 25**

O Lord, Our God, How Excellent

↓ **Call to Confession:** Have mercy, Christ, have mercy on all that trust in You, for You are God in glory to all eternity.

Prayer of Confession (*together*)

Searcher of hearts, You know us from the beginning. You see in us more good and beauty than we dare to believe. You beckon us to do more than we dare

to try. Forever You call our names, but we have filled our ears with the sounds of the world; we timidly speak of Your great love; we doubt the gifts hidden within each of us.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy and forgive us.

-- Silent Meditation--

Searcher of hearts, shine Your forgiving light into our hesitancy, and embolden us to live with such joy and fire that all the world may know of Your love. Let it be so. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Hymn 71, refrain only *(together)*

Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and God will be my Savior.

Prayer of Illumination *(together)*

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone. Let the heavenly food of the scripture we are about to hear nourish us today in the ways of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

First Lesson: I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time God may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on God, because God cares for you. ⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brothers and sisters throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To Christ be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The Gospel: John 17: 1 - 11

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Snatching Victory From the Jaws of Defeat

↑ **Affirmation of Faith:** Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead,

and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn 327

From All That Dwell Below

↓ Presentation of Our Gifts, Offerings, and Thanksgiving

↑ Doxology - Hymn 606 (tune)

Praise God when face to face we see the one who died to set us free.

The one who rose in victory. Praise now forever Christ the King. Amen.

↓ Prayers of the Church and the 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Communion Invitation

Hear the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ: The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body,

broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me." Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes. With thanksgiving, let us offer God our grateful praise.

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.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Supper *(approach the table using the center aisle - return using the side aisles)*

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

Communion Meditation

God So Loved the World.

Kirkpatrick/Curry

Prayer after Communion.

↑ Hymn 749

Come! Live in the Light!

Charge and Benediction

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the suffering;

honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Benediction Response Hymn 248 (together) *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! (vs 2)*

*Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning,
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion, Joy and peace shall never end.*

Postlude *I'll Fly Away* Bromley/ Hayes

JESUS MAFA (<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57474>) is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.



Prayer Concerns

Family and Friends of Cindy Constien; Garrett Holcomb; Bill & Pat Sharp; Friends and Family of Pastor Mark Cooper; Gene Bailey; Karla Hoffman; Mason Fenton (improved after brain tumor surgery but loss of vision); Friends and Family of Harold

Douglass; Flona & Eric Pott; Karen Dietz; Anne Trombatore; Linda Holcomb's sisters, Lois & Carol; Linda Holcomb's neighbor Matt Wammes; Betty Layton's friend, Sue; Gerry, Dan Barlow and family.

This Week at Firelands

Today 5/17	9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship followed by Fellowship. Blessing of the Linus Quilts. Assisting in Worship are Karen Dietz (reader), and Dave & Janet Gray Moore (Communion servers)
Monday	10:00am - 1:00pm Sewing Group
Tuesday	10:00am - 2:00pm Office Hours 2:00pm - 4:00pm - Dulcimer Group 6:00pm - 8:30pm - Power Squadron Boating Course
Wednesday	10:00am - 2:00pm Office Hours 10:30am - Exploring our Faith Together 6:30pm - Happy Quilters
Thursday	10:00am - 2:00pm Office Hours Cleaning Service 6:00pm - 8:00pm - Piano Recital
Friday	3:30pm - 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal
Next Sunday 5/24 Pentecost	9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 Rev. Luke Choi, preaching. Assisting in worship are Mary Caracci (reader), and Karen Dietz & Marilyn Umlauf (Communion servers)