

Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI #70**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

***HYMN #500**

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

PRAVERFUL SHARING

PRAYING TOGETHER

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

CELEBRATING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Give Me Jesus

Spiritual

***DOXOLOGY #95**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of all gifts, of all bounty, of every tree and plant and every fruit and vegetable, everything we have comes from you. We give you thanks for this abundance. We pray that what we give might be used as a balm to heal the nations, to restore your love-grounded peace among all creation. Amen.

***HYMN #428**

For the Healing of the Nations

***BLESSING**

***CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

***BENEDICTION HYMN**

A Closing Prayer

Besig

The time has come, O Lord, for us to leave this place; guide us and protect us and lead us in thy Grace. Wherever life may take us as we go our separate ways, help us share with others the things we've shared today. May the peace of God, the Father, and the love of Christ, His Son, guide us in the days ahead and strengthen us each one. May the blessing of the Spirit fill us from within; God bless us and return us to this fellowship once again. Amen.

***CHIMING THE TRINITY**

***POSTLUDE #524**

Exams of Heaven As I Go



Saint Andrews

United Methodist Church

1201 Maxwell Drive – Raleigh, NC 27603

**Enter to Worship.
Depart to Serve.**

Sunday, May 25, 2025

11:00 a.m. Worship

**6th Sunday of
Easter**

Happy Memorial Day!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

* = You are invited to stand. **Bold** = All voices.

PRELUDE

How Majestic Is Your Name Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5 NRSVue

*CHIMING THE TRINITY

*BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO OUR MIDST

*CALL TO WORSHIP

***HYMN #723** *Shall We Gather at the River*

Come, one and all. Gather together! For this is the day of the Lord!
Let's gather at the river by the throne of God! For there is blessing forever!

*Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

*On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

From the throne of God flows a mighty river of peace and hope for
all God's people!

And there shall be rejoicing at the sight of the healing waters!

*Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down,
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

Our journey brings us to God's wondrous river of Life!

**Praise be to God who has drawn us from darkness and filled our
world with light.**

*Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its
chartered liberties.

For all the wonder of our country's story:

We give you thanks, O God.

For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past and
in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:

We give you thanks, O God.

For those who in all times and places have been true and brave, and
in the world's common ways have lived upright lives and ministered
to their fellows:

We give you thanks, O God.

For those who served their country in its hour of need, and
especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:
We give you thanks, O God.

Pastor: Almighty God and most merciful Father, as we remember
these your servants, remembering with gratitude their courage and
strength, we hold before you those who mourn them. Look upon
your servants with your mercy. As this day brings memories of those
we have lost awhile, may it also bring your consolation and the
assurance that our loved ones are alive now and forever in your
living presence. And all God's people say: **Amen!**

Taken from The Book of Worship for United States Forces

*HYMN #400

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

John 14:23-29

NRSVue

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE

Acts 16:9-15

NRSVue

ANTHEM

Crown Him the Risen King

Larson

SERMON

Now What?

*AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

**We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God:
who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word
made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and
others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the**

WELCOME!

We are a friendly, active congregation, and you will find many ways to serve and grow here. Please sign the register found in your seat so that we may have a record of your presence. If you would like the church to contact you, please let a greeter know, or fill out a guest card and drop it in the offering plate.

SERVICE NOTES

Parents: To comply with our Safe Sanctuaries Policies, we ask that you accompany your children if they need to leave the Sanctuary for any reason.

A safe, loving, and fully staffed nursery for children age 3 and under is available in the Family Life Center, Room 1.

After the Children's Message, children age 4 through 2nd grade are invited to Children's Church located in the Family Life Center, Room 5. One of our capable volunteers will meet you at the back of the Sanctuary to walk with you, and the children will return to us before the end of our service.

Large print hymnals are available for your convenience.

Assistive listening devices are available at the sound booth.

Please ask an usher or greeter for any needed assistance.

Saint Andrews United Methodist Church
1201 Maxwell Drive – Raleigh, NC 27603

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churchoffice@saintandrewsumc.org

www.saintandrewsumc.org

Rev. Elizabeth A. Gaines, Pastor
Dr. Jeanie Wozencraft-Omelias, Choir Director

Ms. Ela Gabitov, Accompanist

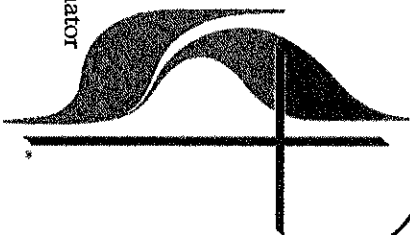
Mrs. Gloria English, Guest Pianist - Offertory

Mrs. Trisha Keen, Nursery Care

Ms. Stacey Byrd, Youth and Children Ministries Coordinator

We are all ministers of the Gospel!

Resources used from *umdiscipleship.com*, *renewship.com*,
ministrymatters.com, and *UM Book of Worship*.



Excerpts from: *Here I Raise My Ebenezer: The Inspiration for 'Come Thou Fount'*
by David Mathis

The Hebrew word *Ebenezer* may be the least known lyric among all our most beloved English hymns. Baptist minister Robert Robinson (1735–1790) wrote "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" at age 22, not long after his conversion, which was influenced in part by the preaching of evangelist George Whitefield.

The meaning of *Ebenezer* originates more than a thousand years before Christ, during the ministry of the prophet Samuel, who played a pivotal role at a key juncture in the history of God's people. Long has he been remembered as one of Israel's greatest figures, alongside names like Moses and David. God raised up Samuel as the first prophet after the tragic period of the judges to serve as God's instrument to establish the kingship in Israel.

And yet, apart from the extraordinary stories of his birth and calling (1 Samuel 1–3), and his extensive involvement with anointing (and rebuking) Israel's first king (Saul) and anointing the second (a young shepherd boy named David), we know fairly little about Samuel.

What we do know is that during his early days as a prophet, Israel received back the ark of the covenant from the Philistines after seven months, having lost it in war. Sadly, even with the loss of the ark, the nation was not yet ready to come before God in full repentance. It took twenty years for the people to be sufficiently humbled to turn to Samuel to lead them in restoring their relationship with God.

Samuel gathered the people at the town of Mizpah. There the people would fast and confess their collective infidelity to God ("We have sinned against the Lord," and Samuel would pray for them... sacrificing a lamb to God on behalf of the people, and as he did, the Philistines began to attack. But God heard Samuel and answered with a magnificent display of power... and came to their rescue.

Then, to commemorate God's mighty intervention on behalf of his people, Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name *Ebenezer*, for he said, "Till now the Lord has helped us."

In Hebrew, *Ebenezer* means "stone of help" (*eben* = stone; *ezer* = help). Samuel wanted the people to remember, not just for a few days, but for years, for decades, for generations, how God had come to the rescue of his people when they humbled themselves before him. They were vulnerable, with their enemies approaching, and they did not deserve God's rescue, having been chronically unfaithful. And yet in his gracious fidelity to his covenant people, God intervened with thunder to throw Israel's enemies in confusion and turn their enemies into the vulnerable nation.

Of course, this would not be the end of Israel's story. Many more dangers, toils, and snares were to come. Samuel raising the "stone of help" was in no way a declaration that the final victory had been won, but that *up to that point* God had helped them. "Till now the Lord has helped us." And because God's people weren't yet out of the woods, this *Ebenezer* had a part to play in reminding the nation to keep the faith in the days ahead.

For the rest of the article, please visit:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/here-i-raise-my-ebenezer>