

5th Sunday of Easter
Worship Service at WCUMC and via Zoom

May 3, 2026
9:30 AM

Prelude – “Ave Maria”

Arcadelt

Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Hymn – “For the Beauty of the Earth”

Call to Worship

The God who made the world and everything in it is not far from any one of us.

In God, we live and move and have our being.

We may have called God unknown—yet God has chosen to be known.

In love, God has drawn near to us.

In Christ, what was distant is revealed, and what was hidden is made clear.

We come to know the One who has always known us. Let us worship the living God.

Opening Prayer

God of all time and space, you initiated the relationship of love and generosity with creation at a time before and beyond all knowing. Through the Word and the Spirit, you continue in eternal love for all beings. Fill us with a deep and abiding awareness of your presence, your call, and your grace in our lives and in our world. Shape us into the people you have made us to be –poured out in creative mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ in all creation. Amen.

Passing of Peace

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Call to Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Children’s Message

Offertory Reflection

Nancy O’Neil

Offertory - “Duet”

Handel

Doxology*

Prayer of Dedication

Abiding Spirit of Love, you have not left us orphaned. Even in our uncertainty, you draw near, whispering truth, stirring memory, teaching us to live as those who know we are loved. As Jesus offered himself in love and obedience, so we offer these gifts today—not out of obligation, but as signs of our love and trust. Take them, bless them, use them—to remind the world that Christ’s story abides in us. May your Spirit strengthen us to live what we give and give what we believe. In the name of the one who promised never to leave us. Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Psalm 115:1-11, 18b

Hymn - “As the Deer”

Sermon – “Anchoring Our Faith in the Known God”

Closing Hymn – “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

Announcements

Benediction

And God’s people say:

Amen.

Postlude – “Now Winter Fades From Sight”

Bach/arr. Whitford

~~~~~  
\*\*After the scripture readings, please respond, "Thanks be to God."

We extend a warm greeting to all who are attending our worship service this morning in person, on Zoom, or watching later via a video link.

**The Flowers on the altar** this morning are given to the Glory of God by Beth Arnold in honor of all the mothers in my life, past and present: June, Sabra, Billie, Arlene, Inge, Kellsie, Amy, and Jeanne. Happy Mother’s Day.

**Today**

Acolyte – Jack and James Ruth

Lay Reader – Roberta Stratton

Minister of Music – Karen Leonard

Pastor – Reverend Geisa Matos

## THIS WEEK AT WEST CHELMSFORD UMC

**Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day**  
**9:30 AM, Worship Service In-person and via Zoom**  
**9:30 AM, Sunday School in the Education Wing, Classroom 1**  
**10:30 AM, Coffee Hour in the Vestry**

Monday – 6:45 PM, Cub Scout Pack 70 Bear Den Meeting in the Education Wing, Classroom 1

Tuesday – 7:30 PM, Finance Committee Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday – 7:30 PM, Trustees Meeting via Zoom  
7:30 PM, Festival Ringers Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

Thursday – 7:30 PM, Senior Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room

**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, Ascension Sunday, United Methodist Student Day**  
**9:30 AM, Worship Service In-person and via Zoom**

Liturgical resources: Opening Prayer & Prayer of Dedication, United Methodist Church Discipleship Ministry for May 10, 2026.

### Ongoing Prayer Requests

- World peace and social justice for all God's children, independently of race, gender, or socioeconomic background.
- All who are sick, mourning, and/or lonely.

### Article Submission Due Dates

- Articles for the **mid-week email** are due in the church office by **9:00 AM Monday**.
- Articles for the **church bulletin insert** are due in the church office by **9:00 AM Tuesday**.
- **Articles for the June/July 2026 Newsletter** are due in the church office by **Monday, May 18, 2026**.

**Altar Visual** - Today, we are reminded that God is to be praised. On the left side of the altar are 2 plates, one gold, one silver. These represent **Psalm 115: 3,4**. *“Our God is in heaven...but their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men.”* We shall praise the God who sent us Jesus. On the right are symbols of the risen Christ. **Acts 17: 31b**. *“God has given proof of this to all men by raising him (Jesus) from the dead.”*

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

**Continue to support our Organ Fund** – Don't forget to leave your donations in the organ pipe display.

**Fill the Ark!! Heifer International Project** - Imagine a world where families don't just survive—they thrive! Heifer International empowers families by providing livestock, training, and resources that create lasting income and food security.

With the donation of an Ark, Heifer will provide two hives of honeybees along with an assortment of other animals, tools, training, and encouragement to help care for an entire community, from Asia to the Americas – wherever hunger, poverty, and hopelessness can be found!

The practice of collecting honey dates back to the Stone Age. Archaeologists have found pots of honey in ancient Egyptian tombs and were startled to find the honey unspoiled and perfectly preserved, proving honey's indefinite shelf life. But honey isn't the only benefit bees provide. By pollinating fruits, vegetables, and nuts, these small insects and their friends play a big role in increasing food security for farming families. Honeybees can turn a family's struggle into a lifetime of opportunity. Here's how:

In Honduras, Rosa spent most of her life tending to cows and pigs and cultivating corn, beans, and coffee. Many people leave Honduras due to socioeconomic hardships, separating from their families and communities to improve their livelihoods elsewhere. Heifer strengthened a dying practice in Honduras — beekeeping. Heifer organized Farmer Field Schools on beehives, processing, and techniques to keep bees alive and healthy. This helped Rosa earn additional revenue — and helped pollinate her crops and the pastures where her animals graze.

She also started a beekeeping initiative through Heifer, where she helps a group manage 13 beehives. They recently harvested nearly 60 liters of honey. They put the money in a bank and plan to use it in a few years to expand their beekeeping business.

Let's show that this small church in West Chelmsford can work together to Fill the Ark for a community in need! Each gift of honeybees is just \$30, but please consider giving generously to help us raise \$5,000 to Fill the Ark either in our collection plate, designating your donation to Heifer,

or in our Chicken Bank located at the back of the Sanctuary, or by mailing your donation to WCUMC annotated for Heifer. You may also donate electronically at <https://www.wcumc.us/give> through Tithley or PayPal. If using PayPal, please send a follow-up email to Finance at [fin\\_sec@wcumc.us](mailto:fin_sec@wcumc.us) to let Ellen know that your contribution is for the Heifer project.

*1 Kings 14:3 “Take with you ten loaves, some cakes, and a jar of honey, and go to him; he will tell you what shall happen to the child.”*

*For more information, contact a member of the Missions Committee.*

**The sign-up sheet for the St. Paul’s Meal** is now online. To volunteer, please click on the link below. The St. Paul's Meal will be served on **Wednesday, May 27, 2026**. Thank you for your support of this important mission.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28AAFF2-63684503-may27>

**MYF Campout** - The campout will be on **Saturday, June 6, 2026** (rain date Saturday, June 13, 2026). We will meet at the church around **2:00 PM** to set up the tents. We will cook hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill for supper, have some games, and an outdoor fire to toast some marshmallows.

On Sunday morning, we will have breakfast, then sit around the campfire for a Sunday School lesson. The children can be picked up at 10:30 AM after the church service.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 617-784-3776.

Harry Johnson

**2026 Summer Camp** - Summer is just around the corner. If you are looking for a summer camp experience for your child, the following camps are accepting registrations.

- **Aldersgate** – For information and Camp Registration, [click here](#).
- **Mechuwana** – For information and Camp Registration, [click here](#).
- **Wanakee** – For information and Camp Registration, [click here](#).

**Upcoming Community Event** – Chelmsford Public Health has set up the following community event.

- Summer Walking Group on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail on the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month from 9:00 to 9:30 AM**. The first one is on **May 12<sup>th</sup>**. The meeting location is at the rail trail at Brickhouse Center. All abilities are welcome!

**Lost and Found** – If you are missing a men’s flannel shirt, child’s jacket, a sweater, a pair of earrings, a pair of gloves, a single glove, or a toy dinosaur, please pick them up in the church office. Your items miss you.