

First Up

The Freedom to Love

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

First
Church



Worship

SONG

“Love Come Down”

GOSPEL LESSON

John 13: 34-35

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

CENTERING WORDS

Leader: The joy of Easter is for everyone! Whether you are a frequent visitor or just dropping in, you are welcome here. During this season, we are exploring the many ways that Jesus worked for the freedom and liberation of all people. Today is about the simplest and most powerful kind of freedom: the freedom to love. Love is a gift from God, and today we celebrate that gift as a community.

[sung by song leaders]

I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God. I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.

Leader: This Sunday we lift up, as the scriptures do, that God’s promise of a new covenant is with all who seek it—all are gifted with the Spirit. There is no distinction of gender, age, or background. We are all given the freedom to follow Christ’s new commandment, to love one another. Let us sing together!

[sung by congregation]

ALL: I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God. I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.

SONG

“Live Like That”

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 11: 1-18

Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very

moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Leader: The Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

SONG

"Love Never Fails"

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray together

All: God of Freedom, our hearts are full because of your presence and compassion. Let us reach far and wide with the hands of love so that all may know freedom in you. We come to you in this moment, cups running over with thanksgiving. Amen!

Service

MESSAGE

"The Freedom to Love"
Pastor Duane Carlisle

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY AND PEACE

<https://onrealm.org/FUMCWL/-/form/give/now>

SONG

"All You Need Is Love"

**All you need is love
All you need is love
All you need is love love
Love is all you need**

THE BENEDICTION

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Prayers

Those Who Have Lost a Loved One

Friends and family of Margaret Williamson

Concerns Shared

Tome Clark All in need of prayer

Those In Rehab & Extended Care

Jack Gaunt

Those in Memory Care

Pat Staver

Our Military

CDR James Beaty	Sman Kevin Clute
AWR1 Isaiah Hale	LTC Kevin Field
HM2 Kim Fountain	Sman Ben Ridings
TSgt Gerald Welker	LCDR Alex Turco
MSG Anthony Mauro	

Announcements are sent out via email each week. If you are not receiving them, contact Ronda at 765-743-1285 or

rkroeschen@fumcwl.org

Helping with worship today:

Pastors

Lead Pastor - Duane Carlisle
Assoc Pastor - Kory Pritchett

Audio/Visual

Audio 1 - Evora Schellingerhout
Audio 2 - Riley Schellingerhout
CG Creation-Charis Vander Plaats
CG Op - Riley Schellingerhout

Worship Team

Acoustic Guitar: Kory Pritchett Drums: Cade Quinn
Bass Guitar: Becca Pritchett
Electric Guitar: Nick Clinkenbeard Keys: Karen Hull
Vocal: Katie Schneider & Paige Clinkenbeard

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<https://onrealm.org/FUMCWL/-/form/give/now>

Love Come Down

Casey Darnell | Heath Balltzglier | Ross King | Todd Fields

Chorus 1A

I will sing forever of Your love come down
With my hands to heaven, shout Your praises loud
I was lost in darkness, when You pulled me out
I will sing forever, of Your love come down

Verse 1

I once was blind, I could not see
Chains of sin had shackled me
But God in heaven, heard my plea
And Jesus, Jesus rescued me
Jesus, Jesus rescued me

Chorus 1B

I will sing forever, of Your love come down
With my hands to heaven, shout Your praises loud
I was lost in darkness, when You pulled me out
I will sing forever, of Your love come down

Verse 2

Now grace so sweet, it floods my soul
And hope eternal won't let go
My debt erased, at Calvary
Jesus, Jesus rescued me
Jesus, Jesus rescued me

Verse 3

Well, there's a home, beyond the sky
A song we'll sing, for all of time
The grave is empty, I am free
Jesus, Jesus rescued me
Jesus, Jesus rescued me!

CCLI Song # 7043065 CCLI License # 1218620

Live Like That

by Ben McDonald, David Frey, and Ben Glover

Verse 1

Sometimes I think
What will people say of me
When I'm only just a memory
When I'm home where my soul belongs
Was I love
When no one else would show up
Was I Jesus to the least of us
Was my worship more than just a song

Chorus 1

I wanna live like that
And give it all I have
So that everything I say and do
Points to You
If love is who I am
Then this is where I'll stand
Recklessly abandoned
Never holding back
I wanna live like that
I wanna live like that

Verse 2

Am I proof
That You are who You say You are
That grace can really change a heart
Do I live like Your love is true
People pass
And even if they don't know my name
Is there evidence that I've been changed
When they see me do they see You

Misc 1 (Bridge)

I wanna show the world the love You gave for me
(I wanna live like that)
I'm longing for the world to know
The glory of the King

Misc 2 (Ending)

I wanna live like that

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Your Love Never Fails

by Chris McClarney and Anthony Skinner

Verse 1

Nothing can separate
Even if I ran away
Your love never fails
I know I still make mistakes
But You have new mercies for me ev'ryday
Your love never fails

Chorus 1

(And) You stay the same through the ages
Your love never changes
There may be pain in the night
But joy comes in the morning
And when the oceans rage
I don't have to be afraid
Because I know that You love me
(Your love never fails)

Verse 2

The wind is strong and the water's deep
But I'm not alone here in these open seas
Your love never fails
The chasm is far too wide
I never thought I'd reach the other side
Your love never fails

Misc 1 (BRIDGE)

You make all things
Work together for my good
You make all things
Work together for my good
(REPEAT 2X)