

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 2026

John 14:1-14

Enduring Witness

Stories of the enduring witness of the Celtic saints have always captured my imagination. What adventures they had, and what trust in God that they displayed! We all heard of St. Patrick overcoming being kidnapped, enslaved and using all of life's travails to glorify God — and chase a snake or two out of the Emerald Isle!

Today I want to introduce you to Gobnait. Believed to have been born in the sixth century, Gobnait was told by an angel to leave her home and keep wandering until nine white deer appeared. When they did, that then would be her place of resurrection — the place where life would be full of meaning.

So Gobnait went off in search of her place of resurrection, wandering for miles until one day the white deer appeared in what is now County Cork, Ireland. There she settled and built a monastery, living her resurrected life of prayer and praise — and beekeeping. (Gobnait is the patron saint of beekeepers.)

When I heard Gobnait's story, she instantly became my kindred saint. I resonated with the call to find one's place of resurrection, where all our longings are met and life's purpose becomes a divine one.

I guess it's safe to say that I'm always on the lookout for my own nine white deer. The moment I know I'm where I'm meant to be. But for all my yearning and searching, I realize that sometimes I must ask, "Have I already arrived?"

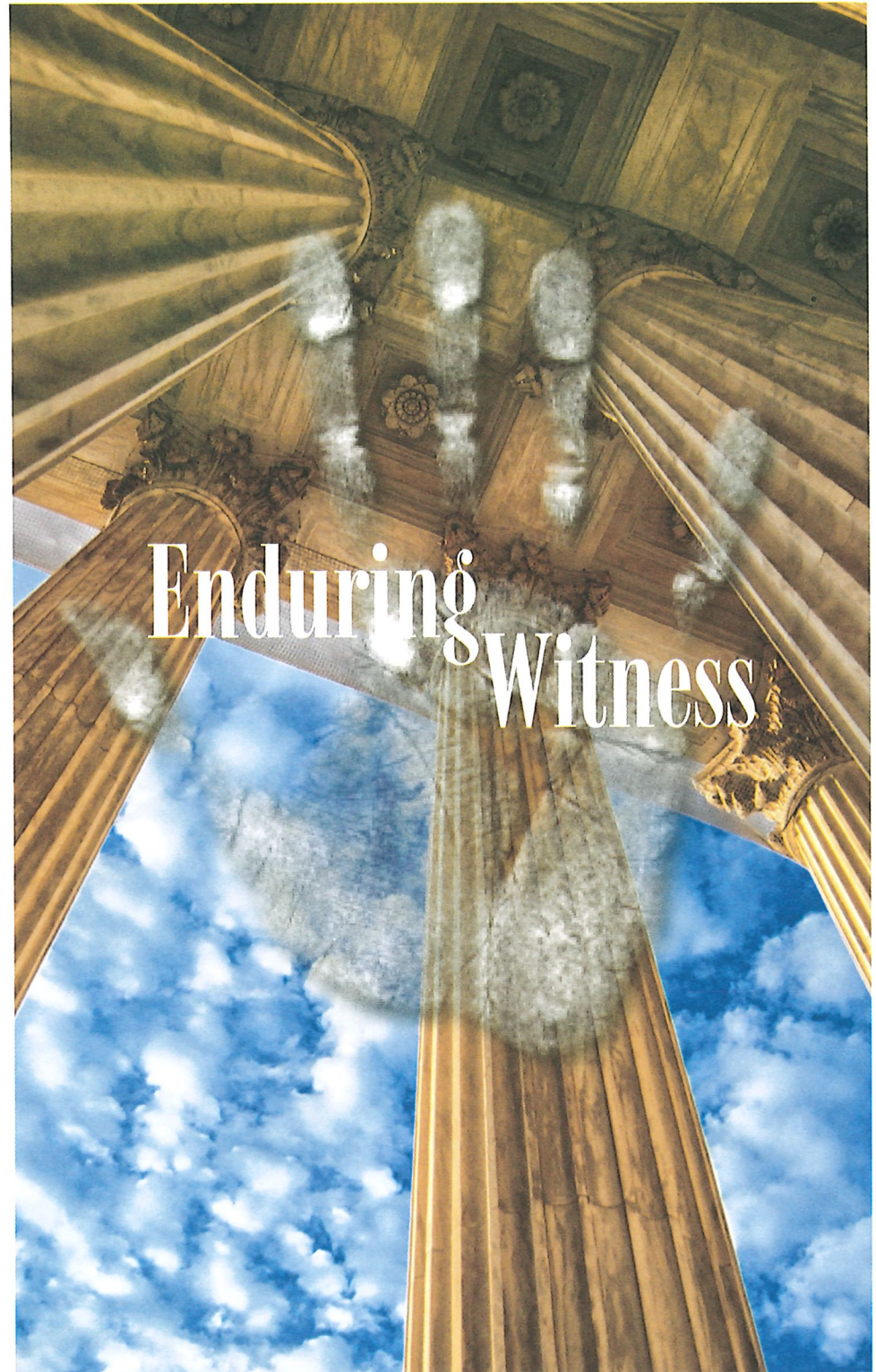
Before ascending to heaven, Jesus told his followers, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." It is a message we need to hear for our hearts seem to be in a perpetual state of troubling. We feel lonely even though we are not alone. We worry about daily bread for our tables, while others wonder if they will have a roof over their heads as the world-wide housing crisis continues. And we worry about the direction of our lives: Is there more to do? New places to go? Unrealized dreams? Wasted time to redeem?

It would be so wonderful to have white deer appear, for then we would know we have found our divine bliss.

But we all must find our own place of resurrection and that means each journey will be different. What remains the same is that Jesus assures our troubled hearts that there is no need to worry. He goes before us, preparing the way forward. There will always be a place in God's loving home. Perhaps that message is our white deer this day, making us see that wherever we go, we have already arrived.

Loving God, as we seek our place of resurrection, ease our troubled hearts on this journey by making us alert that we are not alone. You are with us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



Bismarck-Mandan Area
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-2915 www.uccbismarck.org

May 3, 2026 at 10 AM Worship

Easter Season: Lay Leadership Celebration

Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg | Guest Preacher: Amber Augustadt

Liturgist: Hannah Vanorny | Video: David Augustadt

Music: Boram Chern

*Rise in body or in spirit.



WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

*NO MATTER Sing! 35

No matter who, no matter what
No matter where you are on the journey of life;
You're welcome, welcome in this place.
Accepted and welcomed by God's grace.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

All: Holy One, for your name's sake lead us and guide us.

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling NCH 67 v. 1-4

SCRIPTURE Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

TIME WITH CHILDREN

No Sunday School today. Children are invited to remain in worship and partake in communion.

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, our heavenly host;
Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We pray for courage and resolve to do the works needed in this hour. We pray for faith, trust, and hope to believe that the realm of the possible eclipses the narrow places of improbability. We pray for the boldness to pray for what the world needs and more than our imaginations may hold. Amen.

*GLORIA

Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 2:2-10

CHOIR ANTHEM Simple Praise

SCRIPTURE John 14:1-14

SERMON Amber Augustadt

HYMN Be Still and Know Sing! 111

COMMUNION Let Us Break Bread Together NCH 330

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN My Hope is Built on Nothing Less NCH 403

*CARRY GOD'S LOVE

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from [ONE LICENSE](https://www.onelicense.com/), License #732302-A.



Thank You for Worshiping with Us!

Your offerings are essential for the ongoing ministry of this congregation. Donations can be made using this QR code, online at www.uccbismarck.org/donate, mailed to the church, or placed in the offering box.

Sponsor a Sunday

May 31 and most of June is available. If you would like to sponsor a future Sunday, contact the church office at 223-2915 or visit uccbismarck.org/donate. Sponsorships are \$500.

Derby Game Day and Fellowship

Please stay after Worship for our Derby themed family game day and fellowship! There will be refreshments, board games, and (weather permitting) lawn games!



Spring Clean Up - May 16, 9am

We invite you to join Trustees on May 16 at 9:00am to spruce up our building and outdoor space. We will be cleaning up the yard, so bring gloves, rakes, and other tools if you have them. If you would prefer to work indoors, we will have options inside as well.



Meet NPC Bridge CM John Vertigan - May 16

Meet our NPC bridge Conference Minister, John Vertigan, on May 16 from 1-4pm. This event will be held at Bismarck UCC and will include Worship and a reception where lite refreshments will be served.

Last Day of Sunday School - May 17

Celebrate with the Sunday School kids after Worship on May 17 with an ice cream social! Sunday School will resume in the fall and is for children ages 3 through 5th grade.

Last Day of Youth Group - May 20

Confirmation and Youth Group will have an end of year celebration on May 20 at 6pm. Youth Group will resume in the fall is open to all youth 6th through 12th Grade.

Serve the Banquet June 3

We will be serving the Banquet on June 3rd. We will need 10 volunteers to serve and an additional 2 volunteers to start earlier with meal prep. A sign-up sheet will be available soon.



THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: May 3 - 10

- Sunday:** 11 AM Fellowship & Board Games
12 Noon [Online](#) Fellowship
- Monday:** 6 PM Deacons (in-person & [online](#))
- Tuesday:** 1 PM Quilting/Knitting
- Wednesday:** 2 PM Hay Creek Lodge Ministries
6 PM Youth Group & Confirmation
7 PM Choir Practice
- Thursday:** 6 PM Bible Study (in-person & [online](#))
- Friday:** 9 AM Bible Study (in-person & [online](#))
- Saturday:** 10 AM Men's Breakfast
- Sunday:** 10 AM Sunday Worship (Preacher: John Dynes)
10:20 AM Sunday School
11 AM Fellowship
12 Noon [Online](#) Fellowship

For pastoral care from May 1-17, please contact Darla Schafer 701-597-3407.

Placerville UCC Camp - June 4-7

Family Getaway Camp

Placerville UCC camp is located near Rapid City in the Black Hills National Forest. All ages and family sizes are welcome.

Register at www.placervillecamp.net/camps

The early bird discount ended on May 1.



OUR PRAYER LIST

Family of Sharon Vanorny (Hannah's mother), Family of Zlatan Rasidovic, Gayle Klopp, Ivan Sadlier (Autum's uncle), Lacy Peters (Dawn Archer's cousin), Jody Miller, Kayla Bruning, Bella Bruning, Gellsia (Oliver Gagner's daughter), Sandy Kirby (Autum's Sister), Matthew Nitschke, Nolan (Amanda Wilson's grandson), Sheyla Munoz (Autum's sister-in-law), Tasha Hausauer (John Sauter's cousin), Hayes & Cooper (Brandon & Tasha Domagala's sons), Amanda Wilson, Frank Picard, Carla Christenson (Monica Klein's mother), Pam Crawford, Fredrick Krause (Kerri Kraft's grandfather), Colby (Janice & Gary Sather's son), Robyn Richter (Kyle Eisenbraun's aunt), Doretta Reule, Howard Etson, Camille Grothier, East Timor, Refugees

*Contact the church office to be added to our weekly prayer list.

Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling

Benjamin Schmolck, 1732
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

1 Let me en - ter God's own dwell - ing, o - pen wide the love - ly door!
 2 I have come to church to meet you: con - de - scend to come to me!
 3 Make my mind and bod - y ho - ly, sanc - ti - fy my ears and lips.
 4 In this hour of Gos - pel sow - ing, let my earth be fruit - ful ground.

Here, all earth - ly powers ex - cel - ling, God re - ceives the sick and poor.
 Anx - ious, need - y, I en - treat you, come in - side, and wel - come be—
 Lift my spir - it, poor and low - ly, all bright van - i - ties e - clipse.
 In - tel - lec - tual light be - stow - ing, raise my green faith, sweet and sound.

Joy, my heart, in this dear place: here I see God face to face.
 Here at home, with - in my breast— I, your tem - ple, rich - ly blessed.
 Take my praise, how - ev - er flawed, as an of - fering, wor - thy God.
 Let me prove a stalk of wheat, when your har - vest is com - plete.

5 Re-in-force me, weak and fail-ing,
 mak-ing sure your pre-cious word—
 (Thieves and e-vil un-a-vail-ing)—
 lives with-in my heart se-cured.
 Shin-ing word, my star-ry guide,
 plant-ed for me, deep in-side.

6 Let me hear when you com-mand me,
 let me leap to do your will.
 When I wan-der, rep-ri-mand me,
 com-fort me when I lie ill.
 In the hour of si-lent dread,
 feed me with your heav-en-ly bread.

A native of Silesia, Benjamin Schmolck was ordained a Lutheran pastor. Although he was one of only three clergy serving thirty-six

Tune: UNSER HERRSCHER 8.7.8.7.7.
 Joachim Neander, 1680

Be Still and Know

111

♩=108

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and
 Cal - ma tu ser, que soy tú; Dios. Cal - ma tu

know that I am God. Be still and know
 ser, que soy tú Dios. Cal - ma tu ser,

that I am God. Be still and
 que soy tú Dios. Cal - ma tu

know that I am God.
 ser, que soy tú Dios.

**May be sung as a round beginning at measure two.*

Words and Music: John L. Bell Copyright ©1988, 1998 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland. GIA Publications Inc. exclusive North American agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Spanish paraphrase: Anthony Cabrera, 2009.

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 * 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

My God, have mer - cy on me.

1-2 3

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Matt. 7:24-27; 1 Cor. 3:11; Heb. 6:19; Rev. 11:15

Edward Mote, c. 1834; alt.

1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' love and
 2 When shad - ows veil my Sav - ior's face, I rest up - on un -
 3 Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the
 4 When Christ shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in

righteous-ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but
 chang-ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ
 Love be found, Dressed in God's righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain

whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an-chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand.

William Bradbury met great success by composing hymn tunes and religious songs in a lively, popular style. He also helped establish music programs in New York public schools, served a church, and co-founded a piano company.

Tune: SOLID ROCK L.M. with refrain
 William B. Bradbury, 1863