

**Anthony Community Methodist Church**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**Lay Pastor Shirley Nelson**  
**May 3, 2026@ 10:00 a.m.**

Prelude and Lighting of Altar Candles

**We Gather in God's Presence**

Welcome and Announcements

**Opening Song** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" **UMH #384**

**Call to Worship** **Liturgist: JoLynne Reimert**

L: Come, let us gather in the presence of the One who hears us.

**P: We come with hearts open, ready to speak and ready to listen.**

L: We bring our songs of praise; we bring our silent sighs.

**P: We bring our deepest thanks; we bring our heavy burdens.**

L: For the Lord is near to all who call upon Him—to all who call upon Him in truth.

**P: He is the light in our darkness and the peace in our storms.**

L: Let us not be afraid to approach the throne of grace with confidence.

**P: Let us worship God, who invites us into holy conversation.**

**All: Come, let us pray and let us praise. Let us worship the Lord together! AMEN.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Gracious and Almighty God, we gather today as your people, many members but one body. We adore You for your holiness and your unwavering love that meets us exactly where we are. We thank You for the gift of this community. Thank You for the breath in our lungs, the food on our tables, and the grace that covers our every failure. Everything we have is a gift from Your hand. Today, we lift up those among us who are hurting. Comfort the grieving, heal the sick, and provide for those in need. Equip us to be Your hands and feet in a broken world. May Your Spirit move through us, that our lives might reflect Your light. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. AMEN.**

Special Music "Sweet Hour of Prayer" Roger Hladik

**We Hear God's Word**

First Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Second Reading Responsively Psalm 143: 1-10 **UMH #856**

Hymn of Preparation "Take My Life, and Let It Be" **UMH #399**

Gospel Reading Matthew 6: 5-8

Today's Message "Make prayer your first response, not you last resort"  
Kathy Hodgdon

**God Calls Us to Respond**

**PRAYERS OF THE PASTOR AND PEOPLE** (Joys and Concerns)  
**The Great Thanksgiving Holy Communion** **UMH #9**  
**The Lord's Prayer**

**Giving of our Tithes and Offerings**

\*Doxology #95

Prayer of Dedication

**ALL: Gracious God, we acknowledge that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We offer these tithes and gifts back to You with grateful hearts. We ask that You bless and multiply these offerings, using them to further Your kingdom, to provide for those in need, and to spread Your light in this community and beyond. May our giving be a true act of worship. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. AMEN.**

**Closing Hymn** "I Need Thee Every Hour" **UMH #397**

Sending Forth with Blessing  
Postlude

Ministers.....EVERYONE!  
Lay Pastor.....Shirley Nelson  
Liturgist.....JoLynne Reimert  
Organist/Pianist.....Eileen Van Meeteren

## IN THE CIRCLE OF OUR CONCERN

OUR COUNTRY, OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, our church,  
Our community leaders, our president, our farmers, Bobby Lewis,  
Tom & Cindy Herrick, Ed and Carol Davis, Alta Patterson, Trisha Theisen,  
Eleanore Lewis, Rick Gubbels, Lana Kropf, Tracy Lewis, Bettina Perkins,  
Elwanda Sheriff, Kathy Hodgdon, Evelyn & Larry Dicks  
(Becky Marshall's parents), Jerry & Eileen Klindt, Lyle & Sally Schram,  
Roger Nelson, Will Hoy, Betty Nelson, Connie Ashley, and Barb Madsen.  
**Remember our Nursing Home Residents!**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**May 10:** SPRC Meeting at 8:30 am.

**May 10:** Mother's Day. Muffins for moms will be served before and after the service.

**May 10:** Graduation Sunday. We will be honoring highschool and college grads.

**May 11:** Ad Board and Finance Meeting 4:**30**

**May 14:** WOF meeting 10:30

**May 20:** Delivery of Meals

**May 24:** Memorial Day

**Mission Projects:** TBD

**May Liturgists:** May 3- JoLynne Reimert; May 10, Sue Wilson; May17, Erin Baird; May24, Marilyn Hladik; May 31, Duane Brandt

**Weekly Birthdays and Anniversaries:** Mark & Joan Meister (3), Waylon Hoy (4), Deb Groszkruger; Jaycie Theisen (6).

### **Contact Us:**

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Church website: www.ARBumc.com

FaceBook Page: Anthon United Methodist Church

Shirley Nelson: #712-373-5368 (H) or #712-281-0432 (C)

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**May 3, 2026**

