



**MIDWAY HILLS
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
be inclusive. do justice. honor diversity.

May 17, 2026
11 A.M. Worship Service

Gathering Meditation

"All we can do is be what God's Spirit makes us to be and be thankful to God for the riches God has bestowed on us. Humility, gratitude, and loving service to others are probably the most appropriate responses we can make." - R. Rohr and J. Martos

Order of Worship

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Chiming the Hour

Let us take a quiet moment to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Welcome

Val Cunningham

The Community Gathers

Prelude

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

arr. John Purifoy

*Call to Worship

Carol Hargis-Nation

One: Beloved, come! All you who walk through trials, you who carry questions, you who long for a place to stand, join your voices together.

Many: God calls us to a steadfast hope, a foundation that cannot be shaken.

One: Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, for the One who formed you will lift you up in due time.

Many: We cast our anxieties aside, for God cares for us with unfailing strength.

One: The world presses hard, we are refined in the fire, the Holy Spirit will rest upon us.

Many: In her we find our courage; in Christ we find our firm foundation.

*Opening Hymn 618

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

Prayer of the Day

Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Responsive Hymn 34

Glory to God

GLORY TO GOD

Dismissal for Children's Church

Children ages five through fifth grade may leave with the adult leaders for Children's Worship. They are also welcome to remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

The Community Proclaims God's Word

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 4:11-14, 5:6-11

Carol Hargis-Nation

Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares

for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen. (NRSVUE)

El que habla, hágalo como quien expresa las palabras mismas de Dios; el que presta algún servicio, hágalo con la fortaleza que Dios le proporciona. Así Dios será en todo alabado por medio de Jesucristo, a quien sea la gloria y el poder por los siglos de los siglos. Amén. Queridos hermanos, no se extrañen del fuego de la prueba que están soportando, como si fuera algo insólito. Al contrario, alégrese de tener parte en los sufrimientos de Cristo, para que también sea inmensa su alegría cuando se revele la gloria de Cristo. Dichosos ustedes si los insultan por causa del nombre de Cristo, porque el glorioso Espíritu de Dios reposa sobre ustedes. Humíllense, pues, bajo la poderosa mano de Dios para que él los exalte a su debido tiempo. Depositen en él toda ansiedad, porque él cuida de ustedes. Practiquen el dominio propio y manténganse alerta. Su enemigo el diablo ronda como león rugiente, buscando a quién devorar. Resístanlo, manteniéndose firmes en la fe, sabiendo que los creyentes en todo el mundo soportan la misma clase de sufrimientos. Luego de que ustedes hayan sufrido un poco de tiempo, Dios mismo, el Dios de toda gracia que los llamó a su gloria eterna en Cristo, los restaurará y los hará fuertes, firmes y estables. A él sea el poder por los siglos de los siglos. Amén. (NVI)

Special Music *We Are One with You O Lord* Jay Althouse

Sermon "Held in The Fire" Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Call to Prayer Hymn 306 *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord* HEAR OUR PRAYER

Prayers of the People Rev. John O'Neal

The Lord's Prayer Congregation

From Spirituality and Practice, by Parker J. Palmer.
Inspired by Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4.

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.**

**For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One.**

Call to Giving

Carol Hargis-Nation

Responsive Hymn 41

Halle-Halle-Halleluja

Caribbean

The Community Is Empowered at the Table

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Communion Hymn 430

Lo, I Am with You
(vs. 1-3)

PRESENCE

Invitation to the Table

Mark Holmgren

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Mark Holmgren

Institution of the Table

Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Those who are able are invited to come forward down the center aisle, receive the elements and partake by intinction. Those serving will tear a piece of bread. You will dip it in the cup. You may return to your seat via the side aisles. The Table of the Lord is open to all. Christ invites us into communion.

Prayer After Communion

Rev. Betsy Stirbens

All: We have shared the bread and cup and offer joyful thanksgiving to Christ, the One who rises in victory over death and offers us new life.

One: Christ is Risen!

All: Christ is Risen Indeed!

The Community is Sent to Restore God's World

Invitation to Join

Mark Holmgren

***Invitation Hymn 619**

My Life Flows On

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINING

***Blessing**

Rev. Betsy Stirbens

Postlude

The Solid Rock

arr. Mark Hayes

*Please rise in either body or spirit.

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

You are invited to meet with the ministers after the service in the gathering area, or contact the church office any time.

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

"Reaffirming our own faith in Jesus Christ, we welcome you into this expression of God's universal church. We meet you with love, we commit ourselves to your care, and we celebrate your presence in our congregation. Through the power of God's spirit, let us together do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, who strengthens us to serve one another."

BIENVENIDA CONGREGACIONAL

"Reafirmando nuestra propia fe en Jesucristo, les damos la bienvenida a esta expresión de la iglesia universal de Dios. Los recibimos con amor, nos comprometemos a su cuidado y celebramos su presencia en nuestra congregación. Mediante el poder del espíritu de Dios, hagamos juntos justicia, amemos la misericordia y caminemos humildemente con Dios, quien nos fortalece para servirnos unos a otros."

VISION STATEMENT

Midway Hills Christian Church seeks to **be inclusive, do justice and embrace diversity**. We are an Open and Affirming congregation, unified in our love for Jesus Christ and his teachings. We understand biblical shalom as a call to act for justice and to respect God's creation. We cherish the gift of life and support each other in our spiritual journey. Grounded in worship, Bible study, and prayer, we seek to be instruments of God's healing through efforts social issues that affect our community locally and globally. We seek to transform our world as we build bridges across all barriers that divide God's people.

MIDWAY HILLS STAFF

Jeff Crouse
Director of Music Ministries

David Hammons
Administrative Assistant

Douglass Anne Cartwright
Bookkeeper

TECH CREW
James Lackey
John Leslie

GRAPHICS, WEBSITE
Kate Lynch

MAY DEACON
Clayton Cunningham

MAY 17 ELDER
Mark Holmgren

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

(See The Echo newsletter and Friday Flash for details and more.)

We welcome guest preacher Rev. Betsy Stirbens today.

She is Palliative Care Staff Chaplain at Clements University Hospital.

All church members are invited to stay for the Board Meeting after worship.

Join us in community hall or online via Zoom. Find connection info in The Echo.

Mental Health Outreach at MHCC. May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

This year's theme is "More Good Days, Together", which encourages all of us to reflect on what a good day looks like, both for ourselves and for our communities. This year's theme also invites everyone to speak up against mental health stigma and turn silence into CONNECTION. Learn more in The Echo and see our Volunteer Hub as well for opportunities to CONNECT with and SUPPORT those with mental health challenges/needs in our Dallas community.

Flowing Forward: A Fight Against Period Poverty

The Mission and Outreach Committee is collecting items for Period Packs to be donated to Now-Forward for distribution to clients who need them. Items are listed in The Echo. Order directly from our Amazon Wish List (link in The Echo) or use it to see examples and buy elsewhere. Monetary donations accepted! Please give cash to Sara or Kathy Leslie, or Megan Mercer. Items will be collected throughout the month of May. Place your donations in the red shopping cart in the church foyer. The Period Packs will be assembled on June 7 after worship.

Mark your calendar:

Board Meeting - May 17, 12:15 p.m.

Elders Meeting - May 31, 12:15 p.m.

Cabinet Meeting - June 4, 7:00 p.m.

Finance Committee - June 11, 7:00 p.m.

All Church Prayer - Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. on Zoom

Prayer Alcove - Thursdays, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Adult Book Discussion - Sundays, 10:00 a.m., room 1

Scan this QR code
to make a financial
contribution to
Midway Hills
Christian Church:



Prelude: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, arr. John Purifoy. ©2002 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Special Music: *We Are One with You O Lord*, arr. Jay Althouse. ©2010 Hope Publishing Co.

Postlude: *The Solid Rock*, arr. Mark Hayes. ©2016 Lorenz Publishing Co.

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JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

Please pray for these in our church family:

Judy Mank—hospitalized, Don Manworren, Dan Gaylord, Lydia Bare, Bryen Lackey, Nina Boothe

Please pray for our extended church family concerns:

Mary Ludwick's brother, John Croix—hospitalized; online worshiper Jean McClellan; Jackie Wintle; Dan Gaylord's parents, Linda and Larrie Gaylord; online worshiper Kathy Nida's friend Diane; Laura Mitchell's sister, Mercedes Alcazar; Mary Ludwick's sister, Alice Collins; Christy Horn's mother-in-law, Barbara Horn; David Hammons' wife, Joan

Please pray for those with ongoing concerns:

Elaine Manworren	Nina Boothe	Jim Gilmore	Jose Columbo
Frank & Millie Martin	Jeryl Crawford	Gay Gilmore	
Lynne Stokes	Judy Mank	James Lackey	

Christy Horn and children Betsy, Fletcher, Cameron
Robin Copeland and family on the passing of her mother, Dorothy "Dottie" Keller
Madeline Cotton and family on the death of her brother Roger Allen Cotton

Sympathy to:

- ❖ Mary Ludwick and family and friends on the loss of her nephew, David Harris, May 7, 2026.
- ❖ Family and friends of former member Barbara Dreiman, who passed away recently. Condolence cards can be sent to Julie at 1409 Quimera Trail SE, Albuquerque, NM 97123.

Let's celebrate with joy:

- Our guests/visitors in worship in the sanctuary and online

Please pray for our city and state:

- Muslim community
- Religious freedom legislation
- Legislative sessions
- Texas faith-based non-profits serving immigrants and refugees

Please pray for our nation and world:

- Peace in Ukraine, Palestine, Venezuela, Iran and all places where tyranny threatens human flourishing and the name God is used in vain to justify violence
- Anti trans legislation around the nation
- Disappearance and deportation of immigrant siblings
- Health care and women's reproductive rights
- All who are suffering from climate disasters nationally and worldwide.
- All who need mental health services.
- End gun violence.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 17, 2026

Sunday

May 17

- 9:30 a.m. Choir practice
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Book Discussion, room 1
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 12:15 p.m. Board Meeting, community hall

Monday

May 18

- 5:00 p.m. Dallas Cooperative Preschool (until 8:30) community hall

Tuesday

May 19

- 9:00 a.m. Master Gardeners (until 4:00) exterior gardens
- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Wednesday

May 20

- 12:00 p.m. Christian Adult Fellowship (CAF) community hall

Thursday

May 21

- 8:30 a.m. All Church Prayer, on Zoom
- 11:30 a.m. Men's Lunch Group
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Alcove
- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Pentecost

May 24

- 9:30 a.m. Choir practice
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Book Discussion, room 1
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
- 2:00 p.m. Cosmopolitan Church (until 6:30) sanctuary, nursery, classrooms 1 & 2

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