

## **SPIRIT OF GRACE**

Easter 5 and  
6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
May 2, 2021

The congregation's parts are in **bold**.

### **PRELUDE**

### **EASTER SEASON ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

We have gathered here this morning to worship God.

**We have come seeking comfort, inspiration, community, & insight.**

We have come to open ourselves to the power of God's presence in our lives.

**We have come to offer up the seasons and the turnings in our lives, and our life together, to ask God's help in our learning and in our growing.**

We have come to affirm our historic faith.

**To worship the God of our ancestors.**

We have come to remember God's benefits to us.

**To respond in thanksgiving to the mighty works of God in our lives.**

We have come to affirm our trust in the God of all futures.

**To whose name be blessing and honor, glory and power forever and ever. Amen.**

### **GATHERING SONG**

#### **COME THOU FOUNT**

Come Thou fount of every blessing

Tune my heart to sing thy grace

Streams of mercy never ceasing

All for songs of loudest praise

Teach me some melodious sonnet

Sung by flaming tongues above

Praise the mount, Oh fix me on it

Mount of God's unchanging love

Here I find my greatest treasure  
Hither, by thy help I've come  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home  
Jesus sought me when a stranger  
Wandering from the fold of God  
He to rescue me from danger  
Interposed His precious blood

Oh to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be  
Let thy goodness like a fetter  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee  
Prone to wander Lord I feel it  
Prone to leave the God I love  
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it  
Seal it for Thy courts above

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## **WELCOME**

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion with the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, you have promised through your Son to be with your church forever. We give you thanks for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your presence in our congregation. Increase in us the spirit of faith and love, and make our fellowship an example to all believers and to all nations. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **WORD OF GOD**

### **FIRST READING**

#### **Acts 8:26-40**

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

### 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL READING**

Open your hearts and your minds to the Good News as it is recorded in **John 15:1-8**.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **MESSAGE**

*Pastor Peggy Rose*

## **INTERGENERATIONAL CREED**

**We believe in God, the Father, who is Our Leader, Loving, Our Protector,  
Compassionate, Our Provider and Caring.**

**The Father Created Us, Gave Us Life and Gave Us Freedom of Choice.**

**We believe in God, the Son, who is Holy, A Teacher, A Helper, A Friend, Giving and  
Thankful.**

**The Son Puts Others Before Himself, Sacrifices Himself for Us, Is Obedient and  
Shines.**

**We believe in God, the Holy Spirit, who is Invincible, Powerful, A Leader,  
Overwhelming, Amazing, Loving and Awesome.**

**The Holy Spirit Picks You Up When You Are Down, Comforts You, Gives You a  
Shoulder to Cry On, Helps You Get Better, Provides Strength and Gives You  
Spirit. Amen.**

## SONG TO PREPARE FOR PRAYER Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all especially Wilma, Raymond, bugs, Andrea and the Stamman family.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts  
live forever in your keeping.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks to you for the members and the ministry of this congregation: for those  
who had the vision to begin this congregation, those who sustain its present  
ministry, and those who will carry its mission forward into the future.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending  
goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell;  
with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the  
wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;  
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray together.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

*All are welcome at the table. It is God's Table and He gifts you with the finest He has.*

*Please come to the altar area, sending only one person from your family group to receive communion for your family. Wear your mask and maintain social distance from others in line. A collection basket will be available for you to place your tithes and offerings on your way to receive communion.*



## COMMUNION SONGS

### **I WILL FOLLOW**

Where You go I'll go  
Where You stay I'll stay  
When You move I'll move  
I will follow

All Your ways are good  
All Your ways are sure  
I will trust in You alone  
Higher than my sight  
High above my life  
I will trust in You alone

*Where You go I'll go  
Where You stay I'll stay  
When You move I'll move  
I will follow You  
Whom You love I'll love  
How You serve I'll serve  
If this life I lose  
I will follow (You)*

Yeah I will follow You yeah

Light into the world  
Light into my life  
I will live for You alone  
You're the One I seek  
Knowing I will find  
All I need in You alone  
In You alone

In You there's life everlasting  
In You there's freedom for my soul  
In You there's joy unending joy  
And I will follow

Yeah I will follow You yeah

I will follow You yeah

I will follow You yeah

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## **NOW BEHOLD THE LAMB**

Now behold the Lamb

The Precious Lamb of God

Born into sin that I may live again

The Precious Lamb of God

Holy is the Lamb

The Precious Lamb of God

Why You love me so

Lord I shall never know

The Precious Lamb of God

Thank You for the Lamb

The Precious Lamb of God

Because of Your grace

I can finish this race

The Precious Lamb of God

Now behold the Lamb

The Precious Lamb of God

Born into sin that I may live again

The Precious Lamb of God

Why You love me so

Lord I shall never know

The Precious Lamb of God

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## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have fed us with this heavenly food. In your grace and by your Spirit, help us to be what we celebrate, the body of Christ in the world. Send us out, renewed by this sacramental meal, to do the work you have given us to do: to witness for Christ, to love you with singleness of heart, and to serve you with clarity of purpose; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

**God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **TRANSITION TEAM PRESENTATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BENEDICTION**

Jesus said, "I am the vine, and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit."

**It is God's love that enables us to grow and bear fruit. We say this to one another in faith and confidence.**

Let us go forth into the new seasons of our lives.

**We go forth into growing and changing and living.**

Let us go with caring awareness for the world and all that is in it.

**We go to discover the needs and opportunities around us.**

Let us go forth in peace and be led out in joy.

**We go in God's continuing presence, with the power to love & the strength to serve.  
Amen!**

## SENDING SONG

### **LET IT RISE**

Let the glory of the Lord  
Rise among us  
Let the glory of the Lord  
Rise among us  
Let the praises of the King  
Rise among us  
Let it rise

Let the songs of the Lord  
Rise among us  
Let the songs of the Lord  
Rise among us  
Let the joy of the King  
Rise among us let it rise

*O let it rise*

*O let it rise*

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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

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