

Holy Trinity United Methodist Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021

REFLECTION: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. – First John 4:7

PRELUDE: Italian Hymn – John Innes

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: All dominion belongs to the Lord

People: Who rules over the nations

Leader: Let us praise the Lord in the great congregation,

People: And proclaim God's deliverance in the ages.

OPENING HYMN: Christ for the World We Sing #568

OPENING PRAYER: O God, in your great love you reconciled heaven and earth through your only-begotten Son: Grant that we, who by the darkness of sin have turned aside from loving one another, may be filled with heavenly sweetness that we may embrace our friends and enemies in holy affection; Through Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Acts 8:26-40

Then 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.

MESSAGE: What Is to Prevent Me?

Rev. Wissell

ANTHEM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

As concerns and celebrations are shared the Pastor offers a Bidding Prayer ending with the words, "God, in your mercy" to which the congregation may respond by saying "Hear our prayer" after which all will pray responsively the following:

In peace, we pray to you, O God.

Silence

For all people, in their daily life and work;
**For our families, friends, and neighbors,
and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
**For the victims of hunger, fear,
injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
**For those who minister to the sick,
the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church;
**For all who proclaim the Gospel
and all who seek the truth.**

For our Bishop, Pastors, Deacons and Laity.
For all who serve God in the Church.

Silence

These prayers we offer in the name of and for the sake of
Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON: Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy, help us trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Christ Jesus, the risen Lord. Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God. Amen.

MISSION MOMENT

OFFERTORY PRAYER: God of the far-flung universe and God who is closer than our own heartbeat: we long to dwell in your closeness, abiding in you and you abiding in us. However, the call to abide in other places is strong: to abide in the world of popularity and acceptance or in the world of increasing wealth and power centered around our own wants and desires. As we offer our gifts and ourselves to you, help us turn away from other calls and abide in that place of heart's deepest desire: in your Son, Jesus, and he in us. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer After the Receiving of Holy Communion:

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

#569

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Postlude in D – Johann Rinck

HOLY TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(an inclusive and reconciling congregation)

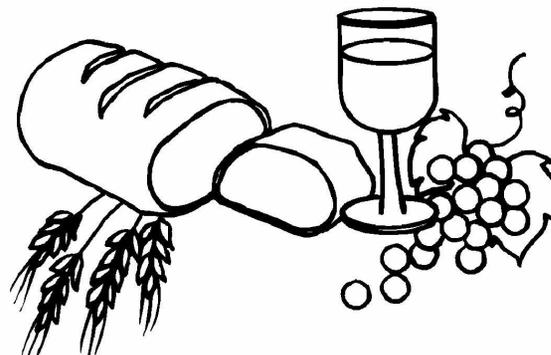
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May 2, 2021

The Reverend Matthew J. Wissell, *Pastor*
Lisa Higgins-Smith, *Christian Education Director*
Dr. Karl Henning, *Director of Music*
Rev. Barbara Otto, *Organist*
Jodi Armstrong, *Infant and Toddler Educator*
Carol Mortimore, *Office Administrator*
Linda Lima, *Sexton*

CHURCH PRAYER LIST: John Ferris, Tuckerman Ferris, Brian Funchion, Bob Gabrielski, Kris Haboran, Barbara Henning, Kim Henning, Marge McClelland, Norman St. Hilaire, Beth Daley, Bobbie Douglass.

Christ for the World We Sing

- 1. Christ for the world we sing,
the world to Christ we bring,
with loving zeal;
the poor, and them that mourn,
the faint and overborne,
sin-sick and sorrow-worn,
whom Christ doth heal.**
- 2. Christ for the world we sing,
the world to Christ we bring,
with fervent prayer;
the wayward and the lost,
by restless passions tossed,
redeemed at countless cost,
from dark despair.**
- 3. Christ for the world we sing,
the world to Christ we bring,
with one accord;
with us the work to share,
with us reproach to dare,
with us the cross to bear,
for Christ our Lord.**
- 4. Christ for the world we sing,
the world to Christ we bring,
with joyful song;
the newborn souls, whose days,
reclaimed from error's ways,
inspired with hope and praise,
to Christ belong.**

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

- 1. We've a story to tell to the nations,
that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy,
a story of peace and light,
a story of peace and light.**

Refrain:

**For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.**

- 2. We've a song to be sung to the nations,
that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
a song that shall conquer evil
and shatter the spear and sword,
and shatter the spear and sword.**

(Refrain)

- 3. We've a message to give to the nations,
that the Lord who reigneth above
hath sent us his Son to save us,
and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love.**

(Refrain)

- 4. We've a Savior to show to the nations,
who the path of sorrow hath trod,
that all of the world's great peoples
might come to the truth of God,
might come to the truth of God.**

(Refrain)