

Sunday, April 28, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.
5th Sunday of Easter

TODAY'S FOCUS: LOVE. Philip is shown someone outside his faith community who needs the Good News. Where are we moving outside our faith community to do the same?

PRELUDE — Betsy

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Lin

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST — Lin**

***OPENING HYMN** UMH #101 “From All Who Dwell Below the Skies”

**1. From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung, through every land by every tongue.**

**2. Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends thy word.
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.**

**3. Your lofty themes, ye mortals, bring, in songs of praise divinely sing;
The great salvation loud proclaim, and shout for joy the Savior's name.**

**4. In every land begin the song; to every land the strains belong;
In cheerful sounds all voices raise, and fill the world with loudest praise.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 118*) — Suzanne Gallagher

One: As the weak realize their strength; as the poor eat and are satisfied,
Many: **God's love abides in us.**

One: As the stranger finds a friend; as we seek the Lord together,
Many: God's love abides in us

One: As the ends of the earth learn of the grace of Christ,
Many: **God's love abides in us.**

One: Let us praise our God!

Many: Praise God!

All: Praise God forever!

OPENING PRAYER — Lin

HYMN

TFWS #2233

“Where Children Belong”

CHILDREN’S STORY — Dan Smith

SPECIAL MUSIC — Shelly Anderson

“In Jesus’ Name” by Jeff Pardo

SCRIPTURE: Acts 8:26-40 — Suzanne Gallagher

²⁶ 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.) ²⁷ 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 ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² 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. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” ³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ 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?” ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ 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

“Being Cut Off”

Rev. Lin Cheek

RESPONSIVE HYMN UMH #571 “Go Make of All Disciples”

**1 “Go, make of all disciples.” We hear the call, O Lord,
That comes from thee, our Father, in thy eternal Word.
Inspire our ways of learning through earnest, fervent prayer,
And let our daily living reveal thee everywhere.**

2. “Go, make of all disciples” baptizing in the name

Of Father, Son, and Spirit, from age to age the same.
We call each new disciple to follow thee, O Lord,
Redeeming soul and body by water and the Word.

3. "Go, make of all disciples." We at thy feet would stay
until each life's vocation accents thy holy way.
We cultivate the nature God plants in every heart,
Revealing in our witness the master teacher's art.

4. "Go, make of all disciples." We welcome thy command.
"Lo, I am with you always." We take thy guiding hand.
The task looms large before us; we follow without fear;
In heaven and earth thy power shall bring God's kingdom here.

OFFERTORY — Anneke

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH #94

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION — Suzanne**

All: God of all creation, you have put a gladness in our hearts that goes far beyond any craving we have for what the world offers us. Help us to see beyond our desires for things that won't bring us contentment, that we may focus on being generous disciples of Christ. As we present these gifts to you, may our offerings of service, prayers, witness, and wealth be pleasing to you and fill our lives with the joy that is like no other. We pray in the name of the Risen Christ. Amen!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS PATSY SCHMIDT AND JANICE HENDERSON

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER — Lin

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

UMH #572 "Pass It On"

1. It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it;

you spread his love to everyone; You want to pass it on.

2. What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding,
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming.
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it;
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

3. I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found;
You can depend on him, it matters not where you're bound.
I'll shout it from the mountain-top (Praise God!) I want my world to know;
The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

***BENEDICTION** — Lin

POSTLUDE — Betsy

Prelude/Postlude—Anneke
Song Leader— Shelly
Liturgist — Suzanne Gallagher

Accomp.—Anneke
Special Music — Shelly
Children's Message— Dan Smith

Offertory—Anneke
Organ — Betsy
Violin — Rae Ann