St. Paul's Lutheran Church Worship Sunday, May 2, 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Prelude - Savior, When in Dust to You, setting by Richard Boursy

GATHERING

We gather in the name of the Father ₱ and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us confess our sin.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Ξ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn - Now the Green Blade Rises

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

And also with you.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

THIS IS THE FEAST

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Lord be with you **And also with you** Let us pray

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

Children's Message

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

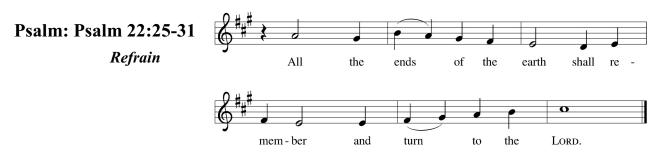
²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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.



²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs | to the LORD,

who rules o- | ver the nations. Refrain

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,

whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,

saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" Refrain

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing. [Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 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."

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

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NICENE CREED
We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

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*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness (*especially*) Barbara, Jan, Johanna, Tony, JoAnn, Leon, Janet, Joyce, Ida, Phyllis, Leslie, Bob, Ellie, Fran, Gus, James and Cassandra, Sue, Barbara, Mark, David, Codell, and others we may name aloud or quietly. Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit (especially with Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria and those we name before you). With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. 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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Offertory - Choir Anthem: Lord of Life and King of Glory, by Michel Angelo Grancini

Offertory - Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,

that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.

Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

P Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dialogue

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.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy Holy Holy

Holy, holy Lord, Lord God of powe'r and might; Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. 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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord. and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 and ever. Amen.

Come to the banquet for all is ready.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymn during Communion - Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

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Holy Communion will be available in the church parking lot on Sundays, from 11:15 am - 12:00 pm

Please do not leave your car. We will come to you and deliver a wafer and wine or grape juice. It will be served to you in a bowl. Please take the elements and distribute among those in your vehicle and then dispose of the cups and bowl when you get home.

Prayer after Communion

God of the welcome table,

in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn - This Is My Father's World

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Postlude - Postlude in G Minor by R.H. Woodman

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The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God with the following recognitions:

- ♣ In memory of George Kachur by Ted and Diana Dominick
- ♣ In memory of Helen Stumpf by her sons, Karl Stumpf and David Stumpf

You are invited to sign up for altar flowers by stopping by at the credenza in the atrium under the monitor. In the double-stacked box are the sign up sheets in the top, with the forms and envelopes in the bottom. Sign up for your date(s) and then complete the forms/envelopes and return at least one week before your selected date(s). Any number of people may sign up for flowers each week.

Prayer of the Church (Members): Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Johanna Nikitscher, Tony Perrotte, JoAnn and Leon Bowman, Janet Ravert, Joyce Veazey, Ida Elliott, Phyllis Jenkins, Leslie Johnson, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Gus Holshouser, James and Cassandra Wagner, Sue Dahl, Barbara Shade, Mark Dewhirst, David Dahl, Codell Jones

Prayer List Changes – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time,** email staff, or call the office.

Prayer of the Church (Friends): Kay Matthews [Tony's mother], Robert Meissner [Tony's uncle], and Dian and Gina Piazza [friends] (by Tony and Penni Perrotte); Laura Williams (friend of Amanda Anderson), Bill Lopatta (uncle of Amanda Anderson), Jane L (friend of Robin Winfree), Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Phillip Idom & Warner Ettinger (friends of the Perrotte's), Pamela Kildahl (sister of Wendy Waugh), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Susan Freeman, her husband Don and daughter Emma (by Joan Pepper), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Lydia Taylor (cousin of Bee Ellertson), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), Donore Lantz (friend of Judy Schlegel), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Gay Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Sally Midyette (mother of Kathy Anderson), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan

Pepper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Lois Horn (friend of Penni Perrotte), Staci Dominick (daughter-in-law of Ted and Diana Dominick), Marti Casalino (friend of Marcia Redman), David Deardorff (cousin of Marlene Coulter), Virginia Hinshaw (great-grandmother of Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Michelle Meadors, Gad Kainer, Peggy Stevens (by John and Linda Foreman), Eric Tabert (nephew of Deb Tabert), Dean Greg Jones of Duke Divinity, Chuck Noll (friend of the Waugh's), Armenia and Artsakh (friends of Judy Schlegel), William and Barbara Wilson (parents of Bill Wilson), Marjorie Bower (daughter of Doug and Fran Whitfield), Linda Leslie (mother of Sean Slane), Paul DeVries (brother of Bob DeVries), Twila Dahl (sister-in-law of Bill Dahl and Martha Dahl), Gini Rinkus (friend of the Dominicks), Don Weaver (cousin of Marlene Coulter), Jim Allen (family member of Ted and Diana Dominick), Sara (sister of Marlene Coulter), Farmer family (cousins of Marlene Coulter), Betty Sue Dickerson and son Barry Dickerson (friends of the church), Elaine Williamson (sister-in-law of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Mike Winfree (brother-in-law of Robin Winfree)

Worship Opportunities

With the Governor loosening restrictions on attendance to 100 inside and 200 outside, St. Paul's would like to limit socially distanced, masked worship to 75 people in the sanctuary and 75 people in Trinity Hall through May. The narthex and balcony are able to accommodate additional people socially distanced. Humming and soft singing behind masks is now allowed. We would encourage those who do not wish to sing to worship in Trinity Hall. Holy Communion will be served at the altar rail with one person per kneeler please (couples and families may be closer but please keep this to immediate households). We will begin using the pouring chalices and using wafers beginning May 2nd. One service will be held per week at 10 am. This service will be live streamed on zoom and drive through communion will be available from 11:15 to noon at least through May. The zoomed service will be recorded and available as soon as possible after the Sunday morning worship.

In-Person Worship

We will be open on Sunday morning at 10:00 am to worship in person using the ELW Setting Four. This service will be live streamed on Zoom. In addition, we will record this service for later viewing and will email the link.

Zoom information:

Topic: Sunday Morning Worship

Time: at 9:30 am - worship begins at 10:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88584944760?pwd=YTZISFp3NVg2Z09GV0JpOEhObER5Zz09

Meeting ID: 885 8494 4760 Passcode: 435920

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,88584944760#,,,,*435920# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,88584944760#,,,,*435920# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 885 8494 4760 Passcode: 435920

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbCjEelyDd

Here is a listing of the Sign-Up Genius links we are presently using to accomplish our many needed tasks. Please fill in as you are able. You can bookmark these sites to make it easier to return to them.

- ◆ Devotions https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1
 Vicar Judy Goans is coordinator for the daily devotions. Sign up and send your devotions to Vicar Judy (vicar@stpaulsdurham.org) at least 2 days in advance of the date.
- ♦ Sunday Morning 10:00 AM Worship https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1 Tasks include setting up, lector, worship assistant, sound, video, etc.

Pour a cup of tea or coffee and join the Pastor and Vicar for Coffee Hour on Mondays on Zoom from 10-11. Here is the info:

Topic: Coffee Hour with the Pastor and Vicar, Time: 10:00-11:00 am on Mondays

Join Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/91351103753?pwd=WVVCRlgrSUhhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09 Meeting ID: 913 5110 3753 — Password: 292680

Zoom Bible Study – The Study of the Minor Prophets.

Bible study is now meeting in person in the conference room as well as on zoom. Join us either way.

Topic: Bible Study – Time: 10:30 am on Thursdays. Join Zoom Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/946532621?pwd=UTJqYjV0V3laMmpROStMdGRvTGFhUT09

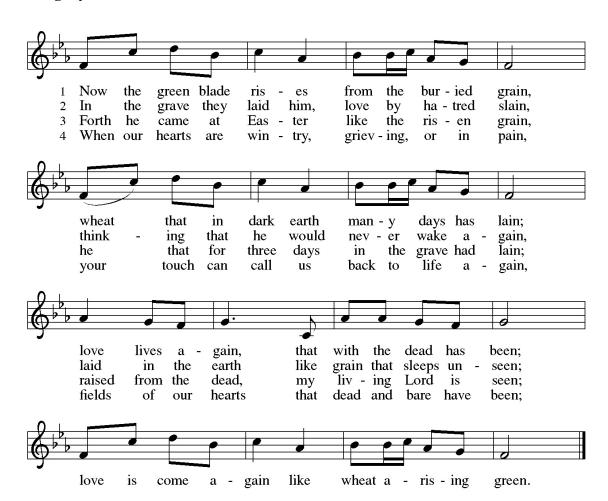
Meeting ID: 946 532 621 - Password: 402561

St. Paul's Readers – The book for May is <u>Beneath a Scarlett Sky</u>, by Mark Sullivan. The group will meet by Zoom on Thursday, May 15 at 3:00 pm.

Croasdaile Worship will resume on Thursday, May 27 (the fourth Thursday of the month) at 2:00 pm.

Gathering Hymn - Now the Green Blade Rises

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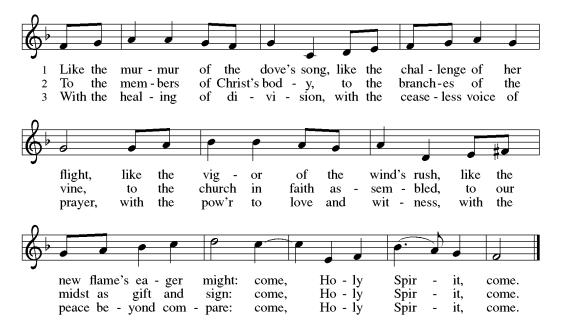
Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958 Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from $\mathit{Oxford}\,\mathit{Book}\,\mathit{of}\,\mathit{Carols}, @$ Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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Hymn of the Day - Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song



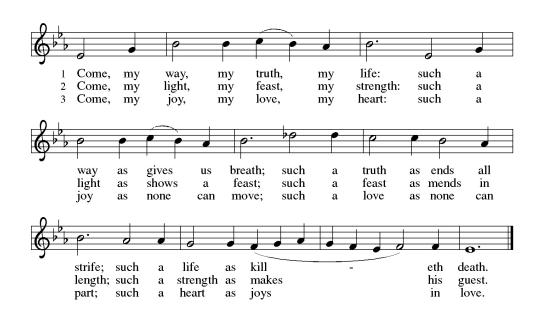


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Communion Hymn - Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life





Text: George Herbert, 1593–1632 Music: THE CALL, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Outside USA: Music © 1911 Stainer and Bell, Ltd., 23 Gruneisen Road, London N3 1DZ, UK. www.stainer.co.uk.

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Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901

Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930, adapt.