

## Fifth Sunday of Easter | Communion Sunday

~ May 2, 2021 ~

Lead Minister: Rev. Matthew Emery | Musician: Dianne Nichols

### We Gather

Prelude

Greeting and Welcome

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

*Many:* **And also with you.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

(Candle lighter: Yona)

Call to Worship

*One:* Come, let us sit together; we shall study the Word.

*Many:* **Together we shall listen and seek understanding  
within the mystery.**

*One:* Come, let us kneel together; we shall break the bread.

*Many:* **Together we shall eat and be satisfied.**

*One:* Come, let us walk together; the way will be made clearer.

*Many:* **Together we shall risk, and, behold:  
We shall be changed.**

\*Opening Hymn: \* MV 1 – Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)

① **Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

② **Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

③ **Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;  
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

④ **Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

⑤ **Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

\*Prayer of the Day

**God of deep soil and luxuriant growth,  
you call us from our shallow selves  
to find our depth in you:**

**help us abide in the One who alone can teach us who we truly are,  
Jesus Christ, the true vine, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

\*The Passing of the Peace

*One:* The Peace of Christ be with you all. *Many:* **And also with you.**

*Korean:* **Christo-ui pyoung-hwa-ga dahng-sin-gwa hahm-keh ha-shi-girul.**

그리스도의 평화가 당신과 함께 하시기를.

Sharing the Peace (in breakout groups)

*What is one joy and challenge in your life right now?*

News from Our Life Together (Announcements)

### We Hear Good News

Gathering Time

Hymn: \* MV 121 – Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah! (vs. 1 & 5)

(Chorus) **Hey now! Singing hallelujah! Hey now! The morning has come!  
Hey now! Singing hallelujah! The tomb was empty at the rising sun.**

① **Jesus loved people and he made them friends,  
Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
He called to the children and the women and men.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty. (C)**

⑤ **Jesus loves people and he lives again!  
Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
Calls us disciples and he calls us his friends.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty. (C)**

Scripture Reading in Korean: **Acts 8:26-40**

(Reader: Miyoung)

Scripture Reading: **Acts 8:26-40**

*Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards 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.**)*

Sermon

Time for Silence

Hymn: ✱ VU 606 - In Christ There Is No East or West (vs. 1-3)

- ① **In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north, but one great family of love throughout the whole wide earth.**
- ② **In him shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find; his service is the golden cord close binding humankind.**
- ③ **Join hands, then, people of the faith, whate'er your race may be; all children of the living God are surely kin to me.**

## We Respond

Offering / Offering Prayer

**O Mighty One, you have done great things for us, and holy is your name. Bless all we offer you—our selves, our time, and our possessions—that through us your grace, your favour, and most of all your power of life may be made known to all the world; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

Anthem: *"Wonderful Light"* (words/music by Karen Crane, arranged by Stewart Harris)

Prayers of the People

## The Sacrament of Communion

\*Hymn: ✱ VU 559 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

- ① **Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of endless praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.**
- ② **Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come, come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God, came to rescue me from danger, precious presence, precious blood.**
- ③ **O, to grace how great a debt or daily I am drawn anew! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you. Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known: here's my heart, O, take and seal it, seal it for your very own.**

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

*(Celebrate God's Presence, Prayer H)*

*One:* The Lord be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

*One:* Lift up your hearts.

**Many: We lift them to the Lord.**

*One:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*One:* It is indeed good and right...

*(We pray in thanksgiving for all God's acts of salvation, especially as that salvation came among us in Jesus)*

... Therefore, with these and our other ancestors in the faith, both named and unnamed, who through the ages and all over the world have borne courageous witness to the hope within them, we praise you, saying:

**Many: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory: hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest!**

*One:* On the last night...  
(*We remember before God the inauguration of the Lord's Supper in the meal Jesus shared with his disciples as their last supper*)  
... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Many:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

*One:* Send, O covenant God, your Holy Spirit...  
(*We call upon the power of the Holy Spirit to make our bread and cup be for us the body and blood of Christ and to make us all one in him.*)  
... all glory is yours everywhere, now and forever.

**Many:** Amen.

*One:* Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,  
we are bold to pray as Christ taught:

**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, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

Sharing the Feast

Prayer after Communion

**Glorious Lord of Life,**  
**may we, who share in Christ's body, live his risen life;**  
**we, who drink his cup, bring new life to others;**  
**we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.**  
**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,**  
**so that we and all your children shall be free,**  
**and all creation will live to praise your name.**  
**Amen.**

Hymn: \* VU 482 – Shout for Joy

- ① **Shout for joy! The Lord has let us feast;**  
**heaven's own fare has fed the last and least;**  
**Christ's own peace is shared again on earth;**  
**God the Spirit fills us with new worth.**
- ② **No more doubting, no more senseless dread:**  
**God's good self has graced our wine and bread;**  
**all the wonder heaven has kept in store**  
**now is ours to keep for evermore.**

- ③ **Celebrate with saints who dine on high,**  
**witnesses that love can never die.**  
**"Hallelujah!" — thus their voices ring.**  
**Nothing less in gratitude we bring.**
- ④ **Praise the Maker, praise the Maker's Son,**  
**praise the Spirit, — three yet ever one;**  
**praise the God whose food and friends avow**  
**heaven starts here! The kingdom beckons now!**

Commissioning and Benediction

\*Sending Song: \* VU 179 – Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks (*Chorus*)  
**Hallelujah, Hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ.**  
**Hallelujah, Hallelujah. Give praise to God's name.**

Postlude

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