



Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 2, 2021 – 10:30 AM

Cherie Brooks – Director of Music

Beth Askue– Liturgist

Brian Gray – Vocalist

Katie Wynkoop – Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music

Erin Wise – Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

Mark Wesley – Media Production Specialist

Rev. Joel A. Esala – Pastor

***Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community
sharing the glory of God's love with all.***

Prelude

"Abide With Me" arr. Rouse

Katie Wynkoop

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship—Liturgist

One: In the wilderness, water brings life.

All: Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

One: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

All: Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

One: In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

All: Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

One: Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.

All: Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

Hymn #450

"Gather Us In"

Glory to God Hymnal

1 Here in this place new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name

2 We are the young, our lives are a mystery
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty
Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song

3 Here we will take the wine and the water
Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters
Call us anew to be salt for the earth
Give us to drink the wine of compassion
Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true
Not in the dark of buildings confining

4 Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the kingdom, now is the day
Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

Call to Confession – Liturgist

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God and to one another our failure to love our neighbor.

Prayer of Confession – Unison

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon – Joel

Prayer for Illumination – Liturgist

Come, Holy Spirit, that through your word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world. Amen.

The First Reading—1 John 4:7-21

7 Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. 8 The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. 10 This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.

11 Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. 12 No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and his love is made perfect in us. 13 This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us, because he has given us a measure of his Spirit. 14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the savior of the world. 15 If any of us confess that Jesus is God's Son, God remains in us and we remain in God. 16 We have known and have believed the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them. 17 This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day, because we are exactly the same as God is in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. 19 We love because God first loved us. 20 Those who say, "I love God" and hate their brothers or sisters are liars. After all, those who don't love their brothers or sisters whom they have seen can hardly love God whom they have not seen! 21 This commandment we have from him: Those who claim to love God ought to love their brother and sister also.

This is the good news we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved.
Thanks be to God.

Talk with Children – Erin Wise, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

The Gospel Reading—John 15:1-8 (CEB) Joel

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper. 2 He removes any of my branches that don't produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit. 3 You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can't produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can't produce fruit unless you remain in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can't do anything. 6 If you don't remain in me, you will be like a branch that is thrown out and dries up. Those branches are gathered up, thrown into a fire, and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon "When We Abide, There is Enough"

Rev. Joel A. Esala

Special Music

Call to Stewardship/Minute for Mission—Rusty Miller

Offering what we have for the sake of others is a discipline of pruning—letting go of our possessions, our time, and even ourselves—to extend the gospel witness into the world. Be generous in your ministry of giving. You need not fear; you abide in the vine.

[\(Slide for Ways to Give at Covenant\)](#)

The Lord's Supper

Hymn #4611 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Glory to God Hymnal

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee;
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Mortals, join the happy chorus
which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

Charge & Benediction

Postlude "When in Our Music God is Glorified" arr. Limbaugh Katie Wynkoop

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