

First Church at Worship

THE OPENING VOLUNTARY Jean Josef Mouret
Air (from **Sinfonies De Fanfares**)

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* THE EASTER GREETING

ALLELUIA! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! ALLELUIA!
Glory and honor, dominion and power, be to God for ever and ever.
Christ is risen indeed! ALLELUIA!

* THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 610 Engelberg
We Know That Christ Is Raised

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!

We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn we share with him an Easter life
as living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!

A new creation come to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restore and whole will sing: Alleluia!

* THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

~ WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD ~

ANTHEM *Song of Hope* Argentine Folk Song
Wesley Treble Choir

THE FIRST LESSON Acts 8:26-40

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.

This is the word of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER Psalm 22:26-30 Maryton

**The poor shall hear and have their fill;
Those who seek God shall give him praise;
All nations shall turn to the Lord
And bow before his throne always.**

**Kingship belongs to God the Lord,
He rules the nations from his throne;
All those who sleep within the earth
Bow down to worship him alone.**

**My soul shall live for him, my heirs
Shall serve the Lord at his command,
To people yet unborn make known
The saving deeds of his right hand.**

THE SECOND LESSON I John 4:7-21

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.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (10:30 a.m.) *My Jesus, I love Thee* Patti Drennan

* THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION No. 2043 *Celtic Alleluia*
Alleluia

* THE GOSPEL LESSON John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

* THE GOSPEL RESPONSE No. 2043 *Alleluia* *Celtic Alleluia*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Rev. Kyle

SERMON *I Heard It Through the Grape Vine* Josh Tietje

~ WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL ~

THANKSGIVING FOR OUR BAPTISM

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.
Amen.

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostle's Creed* No. 881

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried,
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and
sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

* THE GLORIA PATRI No. 70 *Meineke*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

~ THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION ~

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
The very essence of your self-giving is love.
You call us to live in love because you first loved us.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven 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 are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
He taught us that when we abide in him
as he abides in you that we will have life and bear much fruit.
Many chose not to hear that word but to do away with him.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you."
Do this in remembrance of me.

"When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins."
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE 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. Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

All are invited to the Lord's Table. Please follow the direction of the ushers.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

~ **WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD** ~

* HYMN OF SENDING No. 384

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
vs. 1-2, 4*

Hyfrydol

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven,
to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art
all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every
troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest. Take away our bent
to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless
let us be. Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory
into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise

* BENEDICTION

* CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Rondeau (from **Sinfonies De Fanfares**)

Mouret

The altar arrangements are given to the glory of God.

FUMC Staff

Reverend Kyle Randle, Pastor
Billy Fallaw, MM, Dir. of Music & Organist
Josh Tietje, BS, Dir. of Christian Ed. & Mission
Danny Clonts, Accountant
Cathy Estridge, Ministry Assistant
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The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2nd, 2021

8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

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Welcome to First United Methodist Church

Out of a broken and sinful world, all people are welcomed into the body of Jesus Christ at First Church. As children of God, together we join in worship to experience the transforming love of our Savior.

We are here this morning to worship God. Through our songs, words of praise, prayers and scripture reading, we give honor and glory to God. Wondrous things happen as we worship. Lives are changed. The presence of God brings hope, comfort, healing, and joy. Let us worship in gladness. Jesus, the Lord of Life is with us.