
Worship at St. John's Baptist Church

Sunday, May 2, 2021 | Eastertide

Greeting & Prayer of Submission
Sally Young

Hymn of Praise

Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race
TALLIS CANON

Diverse in culture, nation, race, we come together by your Grace.
God, let us be a meeting ground where hope and healing love are found.

God, let us be a bridge of care, connecting people everywhere.
Help us confront all fear and hate and lust for power that separate.

Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 8:26-40
Reneé Hutchson, reader

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.

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

Song of Transformation

I Lift Up My Heart
by Paul Janssen
SLANE

I lift my up heart, Lord, in awe and in praise, your mercy astounds me, both now and always.
These wonders before me I humbly confess: Your merciful love, and my own lovelessness.

I do not love all whom you claim as your own. I often would willingly cast a first stone.
But op'ning my eyes, I'm beginning to see, if I reject others, you've no room for me.

The Church at Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Lee Gray

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Moment for Reflection

Outwitted

by Edwin Markham

He drew a circle that shut me out—
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But Love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in!

Song of Response

Thus I shall bow down at the foot of the cross.
My claims to be righteous, I'll count them as loss.
Lord open my heart and transform me I pray,
that I may be worthy of your broad'ning way.

Message

God-Like Humanity

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Hymn

God Made from One Blood
ST. DENIO

God made from one blood all the families of earth,
the circles of nurture that raised us from birth,
Companions who join us to walk through each stage
of childhood and youth and adulthood and age.

Then widen that wisdom and grace to include
the races and viewpoints our families exclude
until peace in each home bears and nurtures the bud of peace
shared by all you have made from one blood.

Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust

Postlude

J. Noel Lance