

# SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1124 Montgomery Highway  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

MAY 2, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:30 AM

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

Wilbur Held

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

PRAYER

CHORAL INTROIT

“Taste and See”

TASTE AND SEE

*Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.  
O taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Oliver Trolard

One: Here in this place of worship, with the congregation of the faithful,  
**Many: we lay down our fears, to boldly sing God’s praise.**  
One: Here in the vineyard of the Lord, with our sisters and brothers in Christ,  
**Many: grandparents tell stories of faith to little ones sitting on their laps.**  
One: Here where God waits to serve us at the Table:  
**Many: we shall be so filled with love that we will run to serve others.**

HYMN NO. 475

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of God’s unchanging love!*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I’m come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here’s my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR WARREN MARSHALL RAPER

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

THE PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

*Leader: ...The peace of Christ be with you.  
People: And also with you.*

**(The people may greet one another in peace, while staying safe.)**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Robert Newman

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Megan Trolard

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>Then an 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.) <sup>27</sup>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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and [join](#) it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>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?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **Unison: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"Write Your Blessed Name"

K. Lee Scott

*Write Your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart, there to remain so indelibly engraved  
that no prosperity, that no adversity shall ever, ever move me from your love.*

*Be to me a strong tower of defence, a comforter in tribulation, a deliv'rer in distress,  
and a faithful Guide to the courts of heav'n  
through the many temptations and dangers of this life, of this life.*

*O Jesu, my only Savior!*

*Write Your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart, there to remain so indelibly engraved  
that no prosperity, that no adversity shall ever, ever move me from your love,  
ever move me from your love. Amen, amen.*

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

SILENT REFLECTION

### GIVE THANKS TO GOD

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

*Pastor: The Lord be with you.*

**People: And also with you.**

*Pastor: Lift up your hearts.*

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

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

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**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.**

HYMN NO. 515

**“I Come with Joy”**

DOVE OF PEACE

*I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.*

*I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.*

*As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.*

*The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.*

*Together met, together bound by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the loves that makes us one.*

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

All join the Pastor in saying, **“Alleluia! Amen.”**

BENEDICTORY RESPONSE

“God Be With you Till We Meet Again”

GOD BE WITH YOU

*God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.*

POSTLUDE

“Now Is Eternal Life”

Charles Ore

## Prayer Concerns

- Anna and Russell Murphy ask prayers for friends, **Gina Jay and Emily Neuhoff and family at the loss of husband and father, John Jay**, who passed away recently after a long battle with cancer.
- **Christian Johnson**, having cataract surgery Tuesday
- Bob and Sonnie Wise's friends, **Paul and Diana Kreiling**, as Paul is receiving pain management for bone cancer
- Justine Bonnell's brother, **Cliff Lumpkin**, who will be having heart stent surgery May 4th and again on May 12th
- **Shirley Martin**, for continued recovery from a fall back in July and for improved balance and stability.
- Laura Bannon's coworker, **Ana Terpo and husband John David**. Ana is expecting twins and they recently learned that the girls are sharing one placenta and there is concern about the babies receiving enough nutrients and Ana able to carry them to a viable birth. Pray for a healthy pregnancy.
- Marilee Dukes' great-niece, **Amelia Walley**, for recovery from an outpatient procedure to remove a stent from an earlier kidney surgery.

## Announcements

**Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Warren Marshall Raper**, son of Erika and Jaron Raper, grandchild of Jon and Pam Gam, and little brother to Everly and Callum Raper. The congregation may greet our newest member outside of the sanctuary immediately following the service.

**Confirmation Class** meets today at 2:45 PM under the covered drive of Grace Hall. BYG will meet today from 5:00 to 6:00 here at Southminster and then are invited and encouraged to stay for the Vesper Service.

**Evening Vespers** resume tonight at 6:00 PM in the upper field. Bring a lawn chair and come enjoy some time spent in God's beautiful creation while reflecting with music and prayer. Some light snacks (individually wrapped) will be provided.

Southminster will be hosting a blood drive on **Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Grace Hall**. The Red Cross needs your help! You can register by calling the Church Office, (205) 822-1124 and we will be happy to make you an appointment. Please share with your friends and neighbors and help us save a life!!

**Summer Camp at Living River!!!** Have you registered yet? If not, sign up today. You can call the Church Office, (205) 822-1124, or by going to <https://form.jotform.com/210164261101133>. We hope to see you at Living River!!

**Living River Fun Fact:** Living River has six bunk-style cabins with 8 bunk beds and 2 twin beds in each cabin. There is a capacity of 107 individuals in the bunk-style cabins. Are you a part of a group or organization that could benefit from a retreat with communal accommodations? If so, invite them to check out Living River for their next event.