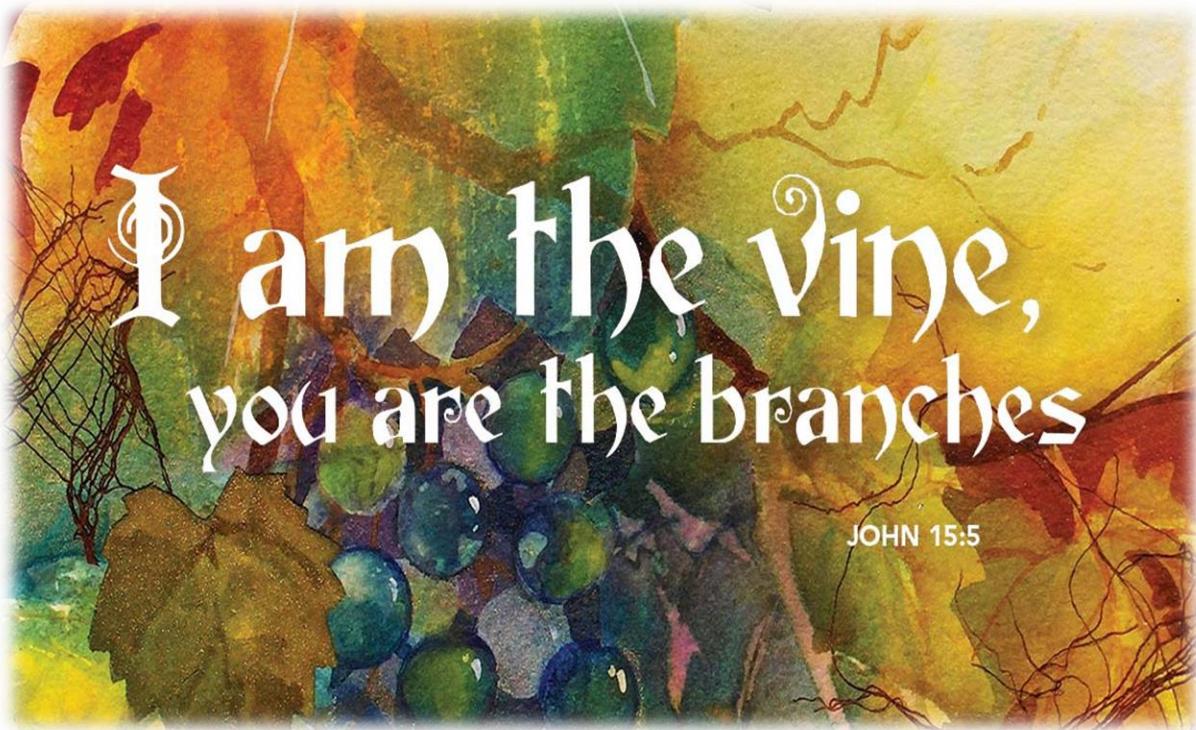




SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 2, 2021

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE IN **BOLD** TYPE



PRELUDE

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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 of sorrow to songs of joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters in which we are born anew.

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 Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.

All of my days I want to praise the won-ders of your might-y love.

My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;

let ev - 'ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise

to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the

sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;

for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.

Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Now the Feast and Celebration”

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - - er - - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

Refrain

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

Refrain

God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together.

Living God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the Lord give praise!
May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

³⁰Their descendants shall serve the Lord, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

SECOND LESSON

1 John 4:7-21

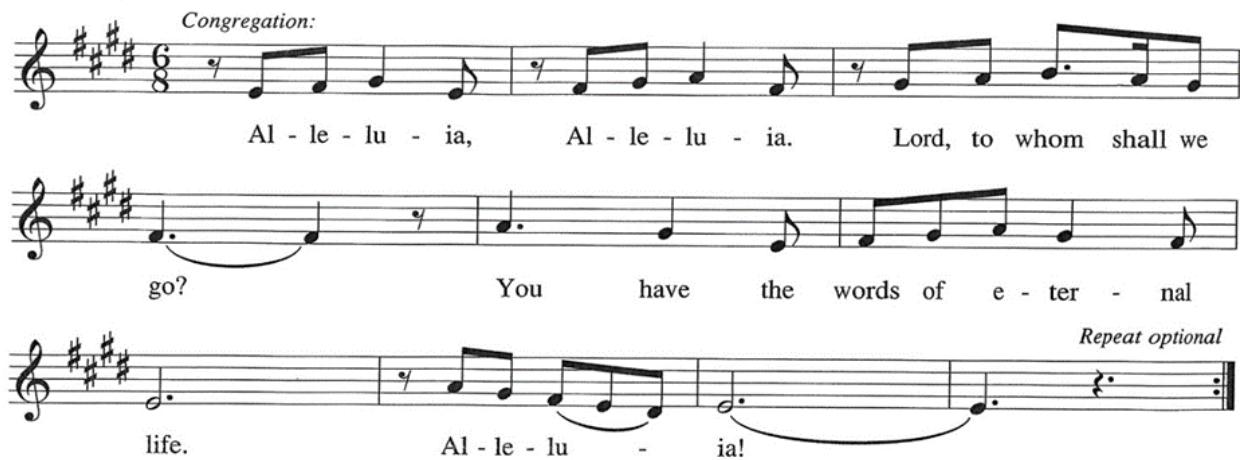
A reading from First John.

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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Stand*)

Congregation:



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Repeat optional

GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to John, from the 15th chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 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 to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Rachel Hoffman

1. O let all who thirst, let them come to the
 2. And let all who seek, let them come to the
 3. And let all who toil, let them come to the
 4. And let all the poor, let them come to the

wa - ter. And let all who have noth - ing,
 wa - ter. And let all who have noth - ing,
 wa - ter. And let all who are wea - ry,
 wa - ter. Bring the ones who are lad - en,

let them come to the Lord: With - out mon-ey,
 let them come to the Lord: With - out mon-ey,
 let them come to the Lord: All who la - bor,
 bring them all to the Lord: Bring the chil - dren

with-out price. Why should you pay the price,
 with-out strife. Why should you spend your life,
 with-out rest. How can your soul find rest,
 with-out might. Eas - y the load and light:

3
 ex - cept for the Lord?
 ex - cept for the Lord?
 ex - cept for the Lord?
 γ come to the Lord.

4

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

God of all people, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those whom they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love, expressed through works of healing, especially, Bill, Steve, Scott, Steven, Jackie, Vicky, Julie, Margaret, Kay, Yvonne, Eddie, Bea, Jack, Eric, Mary, Frank, Bill, Madeline, Earl, Barbara, Steven, Kathy, and Ted. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF PEACE

Our risen Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed peace to all the world. Today, his peace continues in you.

The Peace of Christ is with you.

And also with you. Amen.

At this time in our worship, we invite you to share the Peace of Christ with others.

Feel free to share the peace with others nearby, or, if you are alone, give someone a call after worship!

OFFERING

<https://onrealm.org/gracerockhill/-/give/now>

ANTHEM

"The Lord's Prayer"

Mallotte

Craig Allen, tenor

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *(Stand)*

"As the Grains of Wheat"

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (two sharps) and common time. The first three staves are for a single voice, and the fourth staff is for a piano or organ. The lyrics are as follows:

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat - tered on the hill were
gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo - ple from
all the ends of earth be gath - ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us to serve a world in need; for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and common time (indicated by a '4'). The Presider's part is on the top staff, and the Congregation's part is on the bottom staff. The Presider's part includes the text: 'The Lord be with you. And also with you.' The Congregation's part includes: 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The Presider's part continues with: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.'

PREFACE

It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation, and so, with the church on earth, all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. If you believe in me, though you die, yet shall you live."

Come. Receive this foretaste of the blessed life which does not end. **Thanks be to God.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood, strengthen, keep, and unite us, now and forever. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, [☩] Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"For Everyone Born"


 The musical score consists of four staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef, the second in bass clef, the third in treble clef, and the bottom in bass clef. The key signature is F# major (one sharp). The music is divided into four sections by chords: E (measures 1-5), A2 (measures 6-10), Bsus4 (measures 11-15), and B (measures 16-20). The lyrics are as follows:

 1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,

 for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

 a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

 for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver -
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's
 for young and for old, the right to be -
 for just and un - just, a new way to
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be

Refrain

E B sus4 B E E/G#

head.
 fair.
 long.
 live.
 free.

And God will de-light when we are cre-

A2 B sus4 E E/G# A2 B sus4 B

a-tors of jus-tice and joy, com-pas-sion and peace: yes,

C#m7 E/B A2

God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,

B sus4 B E B sus4 B E

jus - tice and joy.

last time

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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Video Editor	<i>Craig Allen</i>
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Bulletin	<i>Michelle Cunningham</i>
First Lesson	<i>Ruth Wasserman</i>
Second Lesson	<i>Nora Sliney</i>
Nicene Creed	<i>Cindy Rowan</i>
Prayers of Intercession	<i>Nora Sliney</i>
Pictures	<i>Members of Grace</i>
Sanctuary Candle	<i>Lynne and John Siegel in memory of William J. Sliney</i>
Altar Flowers	<i>Frances & Walker Stockley to the Glory of God and in celebration of our wedding anniversary</i>

Click [here](#) for the latest Grace Notes

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