

Trinity Church Welcomes You

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 1, 2021

Reverend Priscilla Hukki

*Indicates standing as you are able.

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 22: 25-28

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

²⁶**The 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.

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

*OPENING HYMN

Baptized in Water

TFWS #2248

1. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing.
2. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ, our King; one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praises we sing.
3. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ, our King; born of one Father, we are his children, joyfully now God's praises we sing.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and Your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what You say to us today. **Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE

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.

SECOND READING*1 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.

GOSPEL READINGJohn 15: 1-8*

[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."

SERMON

Pastor Priscilla

HYMN*Father, I Adore You*

TFWS #2038

1. Father, I adore you, lay my life before you; how I love you.
2. Jesus, I adore you, lay my life before you; how I love you.
3. Spirit, I adore you, lay my life before you; how I love you.

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***APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Congratulations Graduate!
Evie Schlickbernd

As fellow members of this community of faith we rejoice with you and want you to know of our pride and excitement as you move from high school into the next phase of your life. We also want you to know that wherever you go and whatever you do, you are going forward with our prayers for God's continued guidance, power, protection and strength.

Blessing of graduates:

Mighty God, sustain this young woman with your constant presence and help. May she know your gracious love in good times and in bad, in the midst of confusion and through the bliss of clarity. Bless her and keep her. Guide her steps. Hold her in the hollow of your hand. Give her courage to hold to what is good; to return no one evil for evil; to help the suffering; to honor all people; to love and serve you in all they do +in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Confident of God's mercy, we confess our sins
For the times I have turned away from God
For the wrong done and the good left undone
For any lack of charity, compassion and kindness
For choosing to close my eyes, hands and heart to God's call. I ask forgiveness, and ask God to help and guide me

People of God, hear this promise from God: your sins are forgiven, +in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OFFERING

We appreciate your support of the work of the church through your tithes and offerings. Please place all offerings in the plate by the entrance to the sanctuary. (A reminder: Checks or envelopes for Grace will go to Grace. Loose cash will go with Trinity's offering.) The question remains for each of us, apart from this continued support, how, and what, else am I called to give for the sake of the world? Let us prayerfully discern what is ours to keep, and where the rest shall be given.

***OFFERING** *Give Thanks* TFWS #2036

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the poor say,
"I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us."

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the poor say,
"I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us."

Give thanks!

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Feed us again at this table for service in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ. **Amen.**

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin 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.
HOLY COMMUNION

Wherever and whoever you are, you have a place at the Lord's Table. Receive the body and blood of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

In remembrance and gratitude for this great mystery of our faith, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving and ask that God would send us out from this place to proclaim the Good News to all the world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***HYMN** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* UMH #664

1. Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing, thy people of God
from this dwelling take leave.

The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.

The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.

With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

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Benediction & Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Go in peace and share the Good News – Christ is Risen. Alleluia! **He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!** Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

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