

Liturgy of Word and Sacrament for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Zion United Church of Christ, Lowden Iowa

9:30 a.m.

BOLD PRINT = congregation

**Indicates those who are able, please stand*

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US



If you are worshipping with us online, please have some bread and wine/juice at hand, so you can join with us in receiving communion.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

OUR FAITH IN ACTION – ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS & CONCERNS

PRELUDE

He is My Song in the Night

Doug Little

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Here in this place of worship,
with the congregation of the faithful,
**we lay down our fears,
to boldly sing God's praise.**

Here in the vineyard of the Lord,
with our sisters and brothers in Christ,
**grandparents tell stories of faith
to little ones sitting on their laps.**

Here where God waits to serve us at the Table:
**we shall be so filled with love
that we will run to serve others.**

***HYMN No. 433**

In the Bulb There is a Flower

Bulletin, p. 5

*UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Source of Compassion:

**called to be one body,
we fragment ourselves into a million selfish pieces.
We are your children of love,
yet we insist on the right to despise our sisters and brothers.
Though your Perfect Love was broken for us,
we are afraid to give of ourselves to the world.**

Abide in us, Vine Grower.

Graft us onto Your living Vine.

**Forgive us of our sins,
so we may live boldly,
love fearlessly,
and proclaim unceasingly that Jesus Christ
is our Lord and Savior.**

Silence is kept

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

... Because God abides in us, we can live for others, allowing God's love to bear fruit in us.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

(please greet one another with these or similar words)

WELCOME THE CHILDREN

FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

*HYMN No. 332

As We Gather at Your Table

Bulletin, pp. 5-6

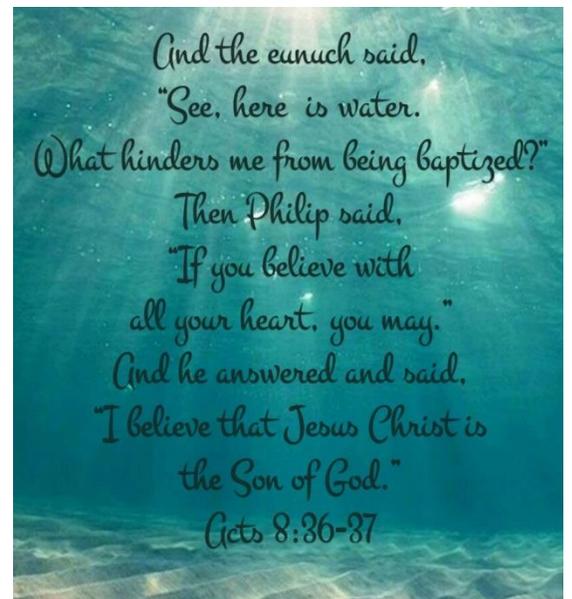
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Gentle Shepherd

William Gaither and Gloria Gaither



***DOXOLOGY**

Tune: Hymn to Joy

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to God on high;
 Alleluia to the Savior Who has won the victory;
 Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of Love and sanctity;
 Alleluia! Alleluia! To the triune majesty.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

***INVITATION**

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on the same day sat at table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the joyful feast of the people of God! Women and men, youth and children, come from the east and west, from the north and south, and gather about Christ's table.

This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

ALL: Together, we are blessed by being here.

***GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

We praise you O God for establishing a fruitful garden where people you loved into being were invited to live in harmony with you. When we turned away from you and closed our ears to your words, you did not abandon us. Through the prophets you spoke to us in many and various ways, simply because we were chosen and beloved by you. You revealed how unchanging your love is by speaking a new word in the person of Jesus Christ, who blesses our lives with healing and wholeness and a love like yours, which is unending and unconditional. And so, with all the company of heaven and earth we rejoice before you and praise your holy name saying:

***SANCTUS (singing together):**

Nicaea

**Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God almighty!
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea!
 Holy! Holy! Holy! Hosanna in the highest!
 Blessed is Christ who comes to set us free.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**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 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.**

SHARING THE BREAD & THE CUP

All those wishing to know the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ are welcome at His table. We receive the bread and the cup together in the sanctuary or across the miles. The distance we keep for the health and safety of each other is dissolved in the unity given by our Lord. Please wait until all have been served, and we will receive the elements together.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Give us strength when we have doubts. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of Your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN No. 32

God of the Sparrow

bulletin, p. 6

*BENEDICTION

... Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*POSTLUDE

I Expect a Miracle

Ralph Carmichael



And the table
will be wide.
And the welcome
will be wide.
And the arms
will open wide
to gather us in.
And our hearts
will open wide
to receive.

And we will come
as children who trust
there is enough.
And we will come
unhindered and free.
And our aching
will be met
with bread.
And our sorrow
will be met
with wine.

And we will open our hands
to the feast
without shame.
And we will turn
toward each other
without fear.
And we will give up
our appetite
for despair.
And we will taste
and know
of delight.

And we will become bread
for a hungry world.
And we will become drink
for those who thirst.
And the blessed
will become the blessing.
And everywhere
will be the feast.

Songs and Scriptures for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

In The Bulb There Is a Flower No. 433

Natalie Sleeth

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

As We Gather at Your Table No. 332

Eleanor Daley. Text Carl P. Daw, Jr.

As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon
 other guests to share that feast
 where triumphant Love will welcome
 those who had been last and least.
 There no more will envy blind us
 nor will pride our peace destroy,
 as we join with saints and angels
 to repeat the sounding joy.

God of the Sparrow

No. 32

Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda (b. 1919)
 Music: Roeder, Carl F. Schalk (b. 1929)



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the swirl - ing
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the trum - pet
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the emp - ty
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the prod - i -



stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
 blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
 grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
 gal How does the crea - ture say Care



How does the crea - ture say Praise
 How does the crea - ture cry Save
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 How does the crea - ture say Life

5 God of the neighbor
 God of the foe
 God of the pruning hook
 How does the creature say Love
 How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages
 God near at hand
 God of the loving heart
 How do your children say Joy
 How do your children say Home

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 8: 26-40

²⁶ 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.) ²⁷ 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 ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² 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.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ 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?" ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ 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.

GOSPEL

John 15: 1-8

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

Thank you to our Worship Leaders

Organist	Sandra Horman
Liturgist	Terry Lasack
Videographer	Jody Yutesler
Power Point	Julie Hoffmeier
Ushers	Church Council
Council Ushers	Diane Esbaum, Janice Strackbein
Ministers	All believers
Pastor	Rev. Susan Schneider-Adams