



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 10, 2009

Eleven o'clock

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MOTHER'S DAY

THE GATHERING

The service of worship begins with the prelude; quiet is requested as you enter the sanctuary and prepare for worship. In the spirit of Christian fellowship, we invite you to wear a name tag which is available from the greeters. As a community that prays with and for one another, we invite you to share your joys and concerns by using the blue cards available from the ushers and in the welcome pad folders. Those parts of the Service of Worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in bold type.

**Stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE Death and Resurrection *Jean Langlais*

* HYMN 281 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah *Cwm Rhondda*

* CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Psalm 22:23-31)*

Leader: Praise the LORD, all you who fear him!

People: Show him reverence, all you descendants of Israel!

Leader: Future generations will also serve the Lord.

People: Our children will hear about the wonders of the Lord.

Leader: God's righteous acts will be told to those yet unborn.

People: They will hear about everything God has done.

INTROIT Because He Lives *Gaither*

Because He lives I can face tomorrow,

Because He lives all fear is gone;

Because I know He holds the future.

And life is worth the living just because He lives.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please use the welcome pad in the blue folder at the end of the pew. Record your presence. Pass it back, noticing who is worshiping with you. When the pad has been returned, please tear off the sheet and place it in the offering plate.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, we know it is so easy to say that since you love us so much, we also ought to love one another, but we confess that it is not always so easy to do. In the life of Jesus we saw that love in action and know in our hearts that we should emulate Jesus and make your love visible to the world. However we confess that even in the church, our words and actions are not always grounded in love. We squabble over things that are insignificant and petty. We get caught up in power struggles and the urge to control, sometimes through deeds and language that make others powerless. Fill our hearts anew with your love and turn us away from anything that causes pain for you or our sisters and brothers. May Jesus' commandment of love become the chief desire of our hearts, the source of all our thoughts and the inspiration of our lives. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

PRAYERS OF SILENT AND INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Friends, believe and proclaim the Good News: in Jesus Christ, love breaks through hatred, hope breaks through despair, life breaks through death.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and set free.
Thanks be to God!

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymnal No. 579 *Gloria Patri*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.*

* EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Leader: Let us open our hearts to one another as Christ has opened his heart to us, and God will be glorified.

People: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

(Exchange Signs of Reconciliation and the Peace of Christ with your neighbor - e.g., *“The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”*)

Response - *“And also with you.”*)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

+ Children and Youth leave for their classes. +

* HYMN 404 Precious Lord, Take My Hand Precious Lord

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON Acts 8:26-40

ANTHEM If Ye Love Me Thomas Tallis
If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father and he will give you another comforter that he may abide with you forever. Even the Spirit of Truth.

SECOND LESSON John 15:1-8

SERMON “Pruned by the Word” Rev. Richard S. Hong

OFFERTORY Brazilian Alleluia Ralph Manuel

* THE DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS Lasst uns erfreuen

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost, Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT

- * HYMN 495 We Know That Christ Is Raised *Engelberg*
- * BENEDICTION
- * CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE Alleluia, Pascha Nostra *Titcomb*
(Our worship ends with the conclusion of the Postlude. It is the custom of our church to remain seated. Those who wish to leave may do so.)

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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 8:26-40 (NRSV)

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 worship²⁸ 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.

John 15:1-8 (NRSV)

"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.
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.

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