

WORSHIP SERVICE MAY 2, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Effie McAvoy, Sunday School & Meg Davis

MUSIC LEADER: Val O'Connor

PLEASE PUT YOUR JOYS & CONCERNS IN THE CHAT BOX BEFORE SERVICE

HAVE BREAD AND JUICE AVAILABLE

9:55 ANNOUNCEMENTS

10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE

Song of Hope

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Look to the skies be it rain or shine.

ALL: We lift up our heads to meet the day.

Leader: Look around and see that you do not dance alone.

ALL: We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.

If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of praise and set out anyway.

For we are called to dance again!

MUSIC

Guide My Feet

FWS # 2208 vs. 1,3,5,& 6

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation – Open us to learn new steps of faithfulness. Give us courage and patience. Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you – so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ. Be with us now, we pray. Amen.

By:Worship Design Studio

YOUNG AT HEART MOMENT

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

604 SEVEN MILE ROAD HOPE, RI. 02831

401-821-8217

www.sovumc.org/give-now

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, these gifts are not payment for services rendered. These aren't our dues necessary for us to belong to this church. We know you made us with a purpose, and so now we give ... on purpose, freely offering to you the best of who we are. Continue to work out your purpose in us. Make us your hands, outstretched, on purpose. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

I Hope You Dance

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 22:25-31

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Acts 8:26-39

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

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD THANKS BE TO GOD

SERMON

What Prevents Us?

Rev. Effie McAvoy

COMMUNION

Will you open yourselves to the grace of Jesus Christ that is always and already available here at this table? If so, say, "Open us to your grace, Lord."

All: "Open us to your grace, Lord."

Will you open yourselves once again to the call of Jesus Christ?

If so, say, "Open us to your call, Lord."

ALL: "Open us to your call, Lord."

Will you open yourselves to the possibility of transformation through Jesus Christ? If so, say, "Transform us, O Lord."

ALL: "Transform us, O Lord."

As we prepare to attend the heavenly feast, we especially pray for those who have no earthly tables, or no place at a table, and so little daily bread. We confess this day that we have been slow to join the dance that brings life to all, brings love to all, brings sustenance to all. In silence, let us lift up our prayers of confession...

Celebrant: Hear this good news!

God has loved you from the very beginning.

The invitation of Christ is never-ending.

The Holy Spirit is transforming you even now!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God!

Amen!

The Peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Please greet each other as the Body of Christ

as you pass the peace of Christ with one another with a wave.

Jesus is with us!

ALL: With us now and forever!

So lift up your hearts and voices!

ALL: We lift them up to God!

Let's join in thanks and praise!

ALL: How right it is to do this together!

Holy Living One,
You transformed a whole lot of nothing into this amazing creation. You
breathed life all around and called it good.
You invited us to the wonder of it all
and when we could not face you, you turned us around.
You keep bringing us around and around, time and again, offering the
chance to join the freedom-dance.
And so we join with the glorious chorus of saints past and present, singing
a never-ending hymn of praise:

ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy!

**God of power and might, everywhere we see your glory! Blessed are
they who come in your name. Hosanna! Alleluia! Amen!**

Indeed, you are holy!
And blessed is your son Jesus, Anointed One, Liberator, Dance Partner,
Sibling, Friend.

Jesus sat at tables with those who had no place
and offered fulfilling food for bodies and souls.
And on the night when he would give all love for us,
he sat at the table with extended family—
just as he hosts this table here and now with this extended family.
He offered the usual prayers of thanks to you, God,
over bread and cup, and then disrupted the gathering with uncustomary
words:

“Take and eat this bread—it is my body given for you. Whenever you gather
around the table together, remember me.

“Take and drink from this cup, each and every one—it is the sign of a new
covenant, (for business-as-usual is over and done and the dance goes on).

This love is poured out for all people.

Whenever you gather around the table together, remember me.”

And so, my friends, we remember. And we believe:

ALL: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again!

Pour out your Spirit upon us now!

Pour out your transforming presence

on the gifts of this body

and the gifts of this bread and fruit of the vine. May they be for us your life
and love, uniting us as one body—Christ’s body— for the sake of loving the
world.

All glory to you, Living Presence, Holy One, Holy God, through Jesus our
Christ and the Holy Spirit our Advocate. Amen.

You’re invited to dine – and to dance. The table extends beyond this
physical space and into the space of the Spirit that unites us.

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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION PRAYER

MUSIC

A Place at the Table

W&S # 3149

CLOSING PRAYER