

WORSHIP ORDER - St. John's UCC
Fifth Sunday in Easter
April 28, 2024

PRELUDE
"Morning Has Broken"

Arr. Fred Bock

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ

be with you all.

People: *And also with you.*

Pastor: Let us rise and greet one another with words of peace and remain standing for our song of centering.

We greet one another with signs and words of peace.

*SONG OF CENTERING

"This is the Day"

Melody

F F#sus4 Eb Bb Db Bbm7 C7

This is the day the Lord has made; let us re-joice and be glad.

F F#sus4 Eb Bb Db C7 F (Fine)

This is the day the Lord has made; let us re-joice and be glad.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song "This is the Day". The first staff is labeled "Melody" and includes the lyrics "This is the day the Lord has made; let us re-joice and be glad." with a blank line for a vocal flourish. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics "This is the day the Lord has made; let us re-joice and be glad." and ends with a double bar line and the word "Fine" in parentheses. Chord symbols are written above the notes: F, F#sus4, Eb, Bb, Db, Bbm7, C7, and F.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

One: Come to the vineyard of God.

Many: We seek Christ, the vine of great love.

One: Drink from the waters of life!

Many: We live in the light of God's grace.

One: Come to the vineyard of God.

All: All are welcome here!

One: Let us pray....

God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace.

Nurture us with the strength of Christ, the vine of everlasting life.

Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit,

which flows through us today and all days.

Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love.

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

SONG OF GATHERING

“Alleluia! Jesus is Risen”



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



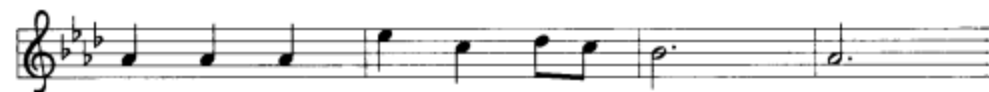
Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

The Liturgist invites the congregation to be seated.

First Reading

Read by Liturgist

Acts 8:26-40

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. 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.

Choir Anthem

"Down by the Riverside"

Arr. by Robert Norman

INVITATION TO COMMUNION - Rev. Nathan Dannison

Invitation to Confession - Rev. Dannison

SILENCE IS OBSERVED

ALL: Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call

us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

One: In the name of Jesus Christ who brings peace and hope, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice!

You are loved! AMEN.

INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE

Blessing of the Elements

Pastor: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God!

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High!

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Let us pray....

Words of Institution

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

This Sunday, Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward down the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and receive both as you return to your seat. If you are unable to come forward, you will be served at your seat. There are gluten free crackers available on each plate.

COMMUNION HYMN

"I Come With Joy"

NCH#349

UNISON

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will

free, The life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, And join our hearts and sing with joy that
 stay, And go with joy to love the world and

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 Christ is ris - en here, that Christ is ris - en here.
 live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.

CHILDREN'S BLESSING - Rev. Nathan Dannison

Gospel Lesson

John 15:1-8

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

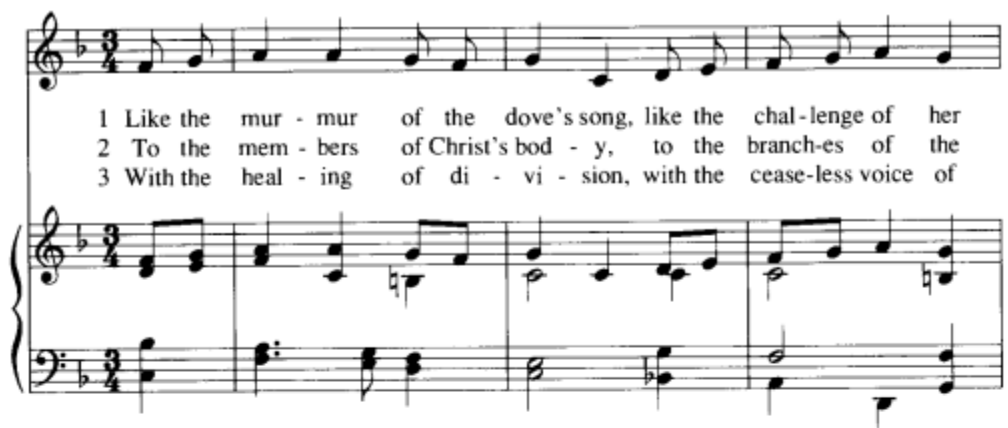
Sermon: "What is to Prevent Me from Being Baptized?"
Rev. Nathan Dannison

The Liturgist invites the congregation to rise in body or spirit and sing the next hymn

*SONG OF RESPONSE

"Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"

NCH#270



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might:
midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
peace be - yond com - pare:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pastor*

Pastor: ... We pray to you, our mother, using the words he gave us,
Saying together,

People: **Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours now and forever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING *Pastor*

Ushers will come forward to receive the offering.

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOR

OFFERTORY

Easter Doxology

Praise Je - sus Christ, who rose from death! Praise to the Source of life and
breath! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to the Spir - it, ho - ly
dove, Giv - er of life, of peace, of love. Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is
ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

*CHARGE

Liturgist

Liturgist:

Go out into the world
and trust in the faithfulness of God.
Speak truth. Embody compassion.
Live simply. Love recklessly.
Transform the world through the power of hope.

People:

*We go in peace to love and serve God
in the name of Jesus Christ.*

*SONG OF PARTING

“The Green Blade Roses”

NCH#238

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;
2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;
Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,
Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Refrain
Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

*BENEDICTION *Pastor*

POSTLUDE:
“Carillon”

Louis Vierne