

## Worship for May 2, 2021

### WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

**We come because we seek to abide in Christ.**

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

**We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.**

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

**We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.**

We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

**May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.**

- written by Joanna Harader

### PRELUDE – Michael Parker, piano

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

### HYMN – Be Thou My Vision, Hymn 450, verses 1,2,4 Starmount Ensemble

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## **SCRIPTURE READING – Acts 8:26-40**

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. 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.

## **SERMON – A Wilderness Road** **Rev. Nate Sell**

## **ANTHEM – All Things Bright and Beautiful, John Rutter** **Starmount Ensemble**

REFRAIN:  
All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours,  
He made their tiny wings.

REFRAIN

The purple-headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset and the morning,  
That brightens up the sky;

The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden,  
He made them every one;

REFRAIN

He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.

REFRAIN

## **INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

## **BENEDICTION**