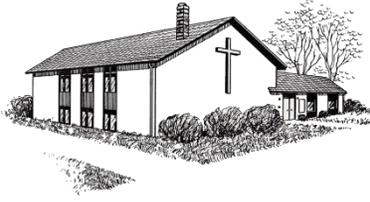


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Pianist/Choir Director: *Michael McKay*  
Office Administrator: *Wilma Fehr*  
Property Manager: *Heinz Goetz*

*Our Mission...*

*to be an accepting Christian community dedicated to living, sharing and teaching the Word of God.*

*We respect all aspects of people including race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, religion, mental wellness, and ability.*

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

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***Bold print** indicates a congregational response.*

## **WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

### **WELCOME and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

*We acknowledge that we meet and work in Treaty 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Metis nation. We are thankful for these first inhabitants and we commit to working together towards justice, truth and reconciliation.*

### **THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

*The light of Christ rises in glory,  
overcoming the darkness of sin and death.*

### **PRELUDE: #603 VU "In Loving Partnership We Come"**

*~ words & music by Jim Strathdee*

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*~Michael McKay*

- 1 In loving partnership we come,  
seeking, O God, your will to do.  
Our prayers and actions now receive;  
we freely offer them to you.
- 3 Loving community we seek;  
your hope and strength within us move.  
The poor and rich, the strong and weak  
are brought together in your love.

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;  
**everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.**  
We love because God first loved us.*

**If we love one another, God lives in us,  
and God's love is perfected in us.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**O God,  
form the minds of your faithful people into a single will.  
Help us love what you command  
and desire what you promise,  
that, amid all the changes of this world,  
our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

## DEDICATION OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS

### THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Peggy Latimer*

First Lesson

**Acts 8: 26-40**

*Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards 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.*

## Epistle

1 John 4: 7-21

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.*

*By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.*

*God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.*

RESPONSE: *This is the word of God.*

**Thanks be to God**

## The Gospel

John 15: 1-8

~Rev. Don Johnson

*'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. 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.*

RESPONSE: *The Gospel of Christ.*

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: **"Christ the True Vine"**

~Rev. Don Johnson (see the attached sermon)

# WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

## AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The Methodist Church, England*

**We believe in God the Father, who made the world.  
We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son, who redeemed humankind.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God.**

## PRAYERS & 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## SENDING FORTH

*Go forth in joy to love and serve God in all that you do.*

**We are sent in the name of the risen Christ.**

*Let us bless our Lord.*

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## THE BLESSING

*May the God of peace,  
who raised to life the great shepherd of the sheep,  
make us ready to do his will in every good thing,  
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.*

**Alleluia! Amen.**

## POSTLUDE: #595 VU "We Are Pilgrims"

*~words & music by Richard Gillard*

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*~Michael McKay*

- 1 We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travelers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.
- 2 Brother, Sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.