

5th Sunday of Easter – April 28, 2024 – 10:30am

Order of Worship

The Community Gathers

Lighting of Altar Candles

Prelude -

A Word of Greeting and Welcome/Centering Words ~

Minister Ainise Isama'u

Connected to Christ through the power of love, we become the presence of God for the world.

Opening Hymn* - *"We Know that Christ is Raised" UMH 610*

Angela Gricar

Giving God Glory As We Come To Worship

Call to Worship (L: Leader P: People)-

Bryan Hori

L: As members of Christ's tree of life,

P: we are connected, in love, to God.

L: As members of Christ's tree of life,

P: we are connected, in love, to one another.

L: As members of Christ's tree of life,

P: we strengthen our connection through worship.

Opening Prayer

Bryan Hori

Loving God, send your Spirit among us now. Bind us to you in love this day, that we may worship in unity and friendship. Bind us to you in love this hour, that we may be strengthened to bring abundant love to your world. In love and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

Message for the Children (In Us All)

Darrell Mark

The Word of God for the people of God

Congregational Hymn – *"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" TFWS 2223* Angela Gricar

Scripture Lesson: Acts 8:26-40

Bryan Hori

²⁶An angel from the Lord spoke to Philip, "At noon, take the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) ²⁷So he did. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian man was on his way home from Jerusalem, where he had come to worship. He was a eunuch and an official responsible for

the entire treasury of Candace. (Candace is the title given to the Ethiopian queen.)²⁸ He was reading the prophet Isaiah while sitting in his carriage.²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Approach this carriage and stay with it."

³⁰ Running up to the carriage, Philip heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you really understand what you are reading?"

³¹ The man replied, "Without someone to guide me, how could I?" Then he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him.³² This was the passage of scripture he was reading:

*Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent
so he didn't open his mouth.*

³³ *In his humiliation justice was taken away from him.
Who can tell the story of his descendants
because his life was taken from the earth?*

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, about whom does the prophet say this? Is he talking about himself or someone else?"³⁵ Starting with that passage, Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him.³⁶ As they went down the road, they came to some water.

The eunuch said, "Look! Water! What would keep me from being baptized?"³⁸ He ordered that the carriage halt. Both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water, where Philip baptized him.³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Lord's Spirit suddenly took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰ Philip found himself in Azotus. He traveled through that area, preaching the good news in all the cities until he reached Caesarea.

Scripture Lesson: John 15:1-8

Bryan Hori

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper.² He removes any of my branches that don't produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit.³ You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you.⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can't produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can't produce fruit unless you remain in me.⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can't do anything.⁶ If you don't remain in me, you will be like a branch that is thrown out and dries up. Those branches are gathered up, thrown into a fire, and burned.⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.⁸ My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples.

L: The Word of God for all people

P: Thanks be to God

Special Music - "I Love the Lord"

Faith Chancel Choir

Sermon: ~ "Choose"

Rev. John Miyahara

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Minister Ainise Isama'u & Rev. John Miyahara

We Respond to God's grace

Offering Our Gifts ~

Minister Ainise Isama'u

Doxology* *"Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones" UMH 90 v.4*

Angela Gricar

***Offertory – Prayer of Dedication**

Bryan Hori

Loving God, bless these gifts with love. Transform lives with our ministries, that your people everywhere might know your grace, abide in your love, and connect with Christ, the vine of life. Amen.

Going Forth in God's Holy Name

Faith In Action – The Ministry of Faith UMC –

Minister Ainise Isama'u

Closing Hymn* ~ *"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations" UMH 569*

Angela Gricar

Commission and Blessings * -

Minister Ainise Isama'u & Rev. John Miyahara

Passing of the Peace* - Postlude