

Order of Worship for May 2, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Virtual Worship



Herbert Boeckl, "Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch"

We Approach God

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Votum, Sentences, and Salutation

Call to Worship (from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*)

One: In the wilderness, water brings life.

All: Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

One: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

All: Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

One: In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

All: Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

One: Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity. Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

Gathering Hymn: "All Are Welcome"

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison): (from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*)

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Kyrie (spoken in unison):

Lord have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Words of Assurance

Summary of the Law of Love

Gloria Patri

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Acts 8:26-40

John 15:1-8

Children's Message

Sermon: A Wider Circle

We Respond to God's Word

Song of Response: "Draw the Circle Wide"

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Passing of the Peace (stretch your hands toward your screen if you're on video, praying God's peace on the assembly.)

Invitation to the Offering

Offerings may be made in three ways:

- Electronic transfer using Zelle to frc1850@aol.com
- Online giving at <https://tithely.com/give?c=1289239>
- Checks made out to First Reformed Church may be mailed to 18 Farragut Ave., Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706

Communion Liturgy

The Meaning of the Sacrament

Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ,
the holy Supper which we are about to celebrate
is a feast of remembrance, of communion, and of hope.

We come in remembrance
that our Lord Jesus Christ was sent of the Father into the world
to assume our flesh and blood
and to fulfill for us all obedience to the divine law,

even to the bitter and shameful death of the cross.
By his death, resurrection, and ascension
he established a new and eternal covenant of grace and reconciliation
that we might be accepted of God and never be forsaken by him.

We come to have communion with this same Christ
who has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world.
In the breaking of the bread he makes himself known to us
as the true heavenly Bread that strengthens us unto life eternal.
In the cup of blessing he comes to us as the Vine
in whom we must abide if we are to bear fruit.

We come in hope,
believing that this bread and this cup
are a pledge and foretaste of the feast of love
of which we shall partake when his kingdom has fully come,
when with unveiled face we shall behold him,
made like unto him in his glory.

Since by his death, resurrection, and ascension
Christ has obtained for us the life-giving Spirit
who unites us all in one body,
so are we to receive this Supper in true love,
mindful of the communion of saints.

Invitation

The first time Jesus sat down to this meal, among those gathered there were one who would doubt him, one who would deny him, one who would betray him, and they would all leave him alone before that night was over – and he knew it. Still, he sat down and ate with them. If he ate with them, surely he's ready to eat with us. You don't have to be perfect. You don't have to be sure. You don't have to be a member of this church. You don't have to be a saint. All you have to be to eat at this table is hungry.

God will do the rest.

Communion Prayer

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

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty to give thanks to you at all times and in all places, O Lord our Creator, almighty and everlasting God! You created heaven with all its hosts and the earth with all its plenty. You have given us life and being, and preserve us by your providence. But you have shown us the fullness of your love in sending into the world your Son, Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, made flesh for us and for our salvation. For the precious gift of this mighty Savior who has reconciled us to you we praise and bless you, O God. With your whole Church on earth and with all the company of heaven we worship and adore your glorious name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Most righteous God, we remember in this Supper the perfect sacrifice offered once on the cross by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the whole world. In the joy of his resurrection and in expectation of his coming again, we offer ourselves to you as holy and living sacrifices. Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, that the bread which we break and the cup which we bless may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Grant that, being joined together in him, we may attain to the unity of the faith and grow up in all things into Christ our Lord. And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf, and these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that your whole Church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Communion

The Lord Jesus, the same night he was betrayed, took bread;
and when he had given thanks, he broke it
and gave it to them, saying,
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you:
do this in remembrance of me.”

After the same manner also, he took the cup when they had supped,
saying, “This cup is the new testament in my blood:
this do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”
We receive the elements.

Thanksgiving after Communion

(based on Psalm 103)

Brothers and sisters, since the Lord has now fed us at his Table, let us praise God’s holy name with heartfelt thanksgiving!
Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and do not forget all God's benefits—

who forgives all your iniquity,

who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the Pit,

who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

The Lord is merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

God does not deal with us according to our sins,

nor repay us according to our iniquities.

As a father has compassion for his children,

so the Lord has compassion for those who fear God,

who did not spare his own Son,

but gave him up for us all,

and will also give us all things with him.

**Therefore shall my mouth and heart show forth the praise of the Lord, from this time forth
forevermore. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Our time of prayer concludes with 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 debts,

as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love"

Blessing and Benediction

The space will remain open for conversation and catching up in our "virtual coffee hour."

Announcements

Mother's Day gift drive for women in Westchester shelters: Our partners at the Interfaith Caring Community are coordinating collection of gifts for women in Westchester shelters. Desired items include soap and shampoo, cosmetics, scarves and costume jewelry, small journals, mini photo frames, flashlights, key chains etc. and yes, chocolates! Indulgences, please. Items may be dropped off by May 4th in front of Sue's door in Hastings: 645 Broadway Unit #14.

Lenten Prayer Wall: Many thanks to Jen Moore Smith and Andrew Smith for crafting and installing our prayer wall! Any time during the Easter season, feel free to stop by to add your prayers. During this time, we are adding gold and yellow ribbons in the negative space around the ampersand.