April 25, 2021
4th Sunday of Easter

Our Mission: To embody God’s love for all by living an active faith in service to others.

We Gather to Affirm God’s Presence in Our Lives

May the God we sing to, pray to, and speak to throughout the day, bless you and keep you safe.

PRELUDE
WELCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS
INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In your resurrection, O Christ
All: Let earth and heaven rejoice.
L: That we may know you as the risen Savior
All: Hear us risen Christ.
L: That in you the downtrodden may find hope
All: Hear us risen Christ.
L: That in you, darkened lives may find light
All: Hear us risen Christ.
L: That in you we may rejoice in life eternal
All: Hear us risen Christ.

HYMN

God Reigns o’er All the Earth (verses 1-3) NCH 21

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Holy God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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 have done so through negligence, through weakness, and through our own deliberate fault. Forgive us and renew us through the power of your Spirit. Lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and follow in Your ways, to the glory of Your name. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen

SILENCE (be as specific as you wish)
WORDS OF ASSURANCE
What has come into being in Jesus Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. We rejoice in the coming of the light and of our forgiveness made known in Jesus Christ.

PRAISE

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

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

CHORAL AMEN

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 8: 26-39
Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south[1] to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) 27 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 28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32 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.
33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34 The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36 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?” 37 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip[c] baptized him. 38 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.

NRSV
HYMN  At the Font We Start Our Journey  (verses 1,2,4)  NCH 308

SERMON  Baptism and Welcome are a Start

HYMN  Now the Green Blade Rises  verses 1,4  NCH 238

BENEDICTION

PRAYER
Almighty God, who in Your great mercy made glad the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of His presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by His risen life and serve You continually in righteousness and truth: through Jesus Christ our Savior.  Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING THE CONGREGATION TODAY
Ministers: All of Us
Pastor: Alan McNamara
Organist: Travis Erikson
Singers: Grace Klonoski, Ashley Kelly, Brian Kowalski
Liturgist: Nancy Allen
Video:
Audio: Tom Spielman
Sexton: Tom Spielman

Call to Worship - David Adams, The Rhythm of Life: Celtic Daily Prayer

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God Reigns o'er All the Earth

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Isa. 52:7-10

1 God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low, the
farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beauty show.
God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains, in
rainbow hues—reds, yellows, blues—of streams and country lanes.
all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign-ing will.
time-less years the cosmos hears the heavenly music run.
presence here makes all things dear. Let joyful bells be rung!

2 God reigns o'er human life! Through youth and aging years, in
death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
faithful folk in reverence spoke to bring God earnest praise.
God reigns o'er human life! Our inspiration still. Through
god reigns o'er galaxy sun, through
goed reigns! Em-man-u-el! Let praise to Christ be sung! God's
God reigns! E-man-u-el! God with us every day, in
At the Font We Start Our Journey

1 At the font we start our journey, in the Easter
faith baptized; doubts and fears no longer blind us,
by the light of Christ surprised. Alleluia,
al-le-lu-ia! Hope held out and realized.

2 At the pulpit we are fashioned by the Easter
tale retold into witnesses and prophets,
by the power of Christ made bold. Alleluia,
al-le-lu-ia! Faith proclaimed, yet still untold.

3 At the altar we are nourished with the Easter
gift of bread; in our breaking it to pieces
see the love of Christ outspread. Alleluia,
al-le-lu-ia! Life embraced, yet freely shed.

4 At the door we are commissioned, now the Easter
victory’s won, to restore a world divided
to the peace of Christ as one. Alleluia,
al-le-lu-ia! Easter’s work must still be done.
Now the Green Blade Rises

John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt.


1. Now the green blade rises from the buried grain;
   Wheat that in dark earth for many days has lain;
   Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
   Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

2. In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
   Thinking that their Love would never wake again,
   Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
   Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

3. Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain,
   Jesus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
   Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:
   Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
   Christ's warm touch can call us back to life again,
   Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
   Love is come again like wheat that rises green.