

Bethany United Methodist Church

Order of Worship

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021



ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE CHURCH (10:50)

LIGHT AND PRELUDE *Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now* arr. Johann Gottfried Walther

GREETING

In the wilderness, water brings life.

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

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

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

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

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

Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.

Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

HYMN *UMH* # 578

God of Love and God of Power

UNSER HERRSCHER

OPENING PRAYER

Wondrous Vinegrower, you make all things new
in water and Word,
feeding your people with love, joy, and peace.
Lead us today and every day to the font of new beginnings.
Teach us to love what you have commanded
and to prune what does not nourish your creation,
in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come, Holy Spirit,
that through your word we may be guided
into the love of God for all the world. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: 1 John 4:7-21

PSALTER: *UMH* # 752 with sung response 2
Psalm 22:25-31

SPECIAL MUSIC

I Surrender All
(*UMH* #354)

Calvin Rocke, pianist

SECOND READING: Acts 8:26–40

SERMON

Rev. Julia Webb-Bowden

HYMN *UMH* # 402

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *UMH* # 889 *from 1 Timothy*

There is one God
and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus,
who came as a ransom for all,
to whom we testify.

This saying is sure

and worthy of full acceptance:

**That Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners,
and was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated in the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed in throughout the world,
taken up in glory.**

Great indeed is the mystery of the gospel. Amen.

GLORIA *Gloria Patri UMH # 71*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the
Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is
now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in the mercy of God,
let us confess to God and to one another
our failure to love our neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**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.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

You have already been cleansed by the word that
God has spoken to you.
In baptism God claimed you
and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine.
Believe the promise given to you:
in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now* arr. Johann Gottfried Walther

DOXOLOGY *UMH # 94*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING FORTH

HYMN *UMH* # 571

Go, Make of All Disciples

LANCASHIRE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

arr. Johann Gottfried Walther

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Today Bible Study @ 4:00 pm Zoom

May 5 Choir Practice @ 6:30 pm Zoom

May 6 Vital Conversations @ 7:00 pm Zoom