



Riverside Congregational Church

May 2, 2021

5TH Sunday of Easter

“Where there is love there is life.” —
Mahatma Gandhi

Call to Worship

Leader: As we gather, may we open our hearts to receive newness of life.

All: We come with hope for renewal.

Leader: In our time of worship, may we be inspired by God's wisdom.

All: We come seeking to learn and to draw closer to God.

Leader: Come, let us worship, as the beloved children of God.

Knowing You

All I once held dear, built my life upon, all this world reveres and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss, spent and worthless now compared to
this

Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you, there is no greater thing
You're my all, you're the best, you're my joy, my righteousness, and I love you, Lord

Now my heart's desire is to know you more, to be found in you, and known as yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn, all surpassing gift of righteousness

Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you, there is no greater thing
You're my all, you're the best, you're my joy, my righteousness, and I love you, Lord

Psalm 22: 25 - 31

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the
LORD.

May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has
done it.

Acts 8: 26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward 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.

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 Savior 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 judgment, 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.



Reflection

“Pick Up Your Phone”



Pastoral Prayer

His Strength is Perfect

His strength is perfect when our strength is gone
He'll carry us when we can't carry on

Raised in his power, the weak become strong
His strength is perfect, his strength is perfect.

(x2)

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Communion Time

Leader: God be with you

People: And also with you

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to God

Leader: Let us give thanks to God

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise

Communion Time

All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High

He Is Exalted

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise him.

He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise his name!

He is the Lord; forever his truth shall reign.

Heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

(x2)



Peace be with you!