

**April 25, 2021**

Congregational Bulletin

**PRESERVICE MUSIC** Peg Youngren

**WELCOME**

**Thanksgiving for baptism**

**GATHERING SONG** ***Baptized and Set Free* Hymn 453 v 1,3**

We are people created, chosen by God

Then we’re washed ever gently, in mercy and love

Sin has power no more Jesus opened the door

to a Fountain bringing healing and wholeness and more

We are nourished by water, all living things

and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings

As we journey toward home, may your presence be known

precious River, ever flowing now carry us home.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Risen Christ**,** with Scripture and water you were quickly on the move in the early church, claiming people as your own. Claim us with water and the word, so that we may rejoice in the life given to us through the one whose spirit lives in us, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**WORD**

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| A reading from Acts Chapter 8  Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) 27So 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 28and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ 30So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ 31He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32Now 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.’  34The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ 35Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36As 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?’ 38He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39When 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.  Word of God, word of life.  **Thanks be to God.** | Una lectura de Hecho Capitulo 8  26Un ángel del Señor le dijo a Felipe: «Ponte en marcha hacia el sur, por el camino del desierto que baja de Jerusalén a Gaza». 27Felipe emprendió el viaje, y resulta que se encontró con un etíope eunuco, alto funcionario encargado de todo el tesoro de la Candace, reina de los etíopes. Este había ido a Jerusalén para adorar 28y, en el viaje de regreso a su país, iba sentado en su carroza, leyendo el libro del profeta Isaías. 29El Espíritu le dijo a Felipe: «Acércate y júntate a ese carro». 30Felipe se acercó de prisa a la carroza y, al oír que el hombre leía al profeta Isaías, le preguntó: —¿Acaso entiende usted lo que está leyendo? 31—¿Y cómo voy a entenderlo —contestó— si nadie me lo explica? Así que invitó a Felipe a subir y sentarse con él. 32El pasaje de la Escritura que estaba leyendo era el siguiente: «Como oveja, fue llevado al matadero;     y como cordero que enmudece ante su trasquilador,     ni siquiera abrió su boca. 33Lo humillaron y no le hicieron justicia.     ¿Quién describirá su descendencia?     Porque su vida fue arrancada de la tierra». 34—Dígame usted, por favor, ¿de quién habla aquí el profeta, de sí mismo o de algún otro? —le preguntó el eunuco a Felipe. 35Entonces Felipe, comenzando con ese mismo pasaje de la Escritura, le anunció las buenas nuevas acerca de Jesús. 36Mientras iban por el camino, llegaron a un lugar donde había agua, y dijo el eunuco: —Mire usted, aquí hay agua. ¿Qué impide que yo sea bautizado? 38Entonces mandó parar la carroza, y ambos bajaron al agua, y Felipe lo bautizó. 39Cuando subieron del agua, el Espíritu del Señor se llevó de repente a Felipe. El eunuco no volvió a verlo, pero siguió alegre su camino.  Palabra de Dios, palabra de vida.  **Gracias a Dios** |

**SERMON** **Pastor Carol Book**

**SERMON SONG** ***Gather Us In* Hymn 532**

Here in this place the new light is streaming

now is the darkness vanished away

see in this space

our fears and our dreamings

brought here to you in the light of this day

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken

gather us in, the blind and the lame

call to us now, and we shall awaken

we shall arise at the sound of our name

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry

we are the old who yearn for your face

we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry

called to be light to the whole human race

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty

gather us in, the proud and the strong

give us a heart, so meek and so lowly

give us the courage to enter the song.

**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.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

**OFFERING**

*Now is time for the Offering, so we take a moment to consider our Offering of Time, Talent and Treasure to the Mission of Jesus in the world.*

**OFFERING** **SONG *All My Hope***

All my hope is in Jesus

Thank God that yesterday's gone

All my sins are forgiven

I've been washed by the blood 2x

**OFFERING PRAYER and COMMUNION**

*Those communing from home can have the elements sitting out on a small table for blessing as the Words of Institution are spoken. Pastor Carol will then invite you to receive as we commune together.*

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Rezamos el Padre Nuestro, cada uno en su propio idioma; Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

***The body and blood of Christ given for you.***

**COMMUNION SONG *Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)***

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now am found  
Was blind but now I see  
  
Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear  
And Grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that Grace appear,  
The hour I first believed

**My chains are gone, I’ve been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, Amazing Grace**

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God who called me here below  
Will be forever mine  
Will be forever mine  
You are forever mine.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**In-person worship with a limit of 50 people at all worship service inside services.**

Call Cindy to register**.** Others will be on Zoom or YouTube Live

**Grupo de Oración con Pr Jose (in Spanish)** Contact Pr. Jose or the Bethlehem office for more information.

**PEACE and BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

**CLOSING SONG** ***Gather Us In Hymn 532 v 4***

Not in the dark of buildings confining

not in some heaven, light years away

here in this place the new light is shining

now is the kingdom, and now is the day

Gather us in and hold us forever

gather us in and make us your own

gather us in, all peoples together

fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

**DISMISSAL** Go in peace, Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

**Contact Numbers**

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