

**May 3, 2021**

Congregational Bulletin

**PRESERVICE MUSIC** Peg Youngren

**WELCOME**

**Thanksgiving for baptism**

**GATHERING SONG** ***The Church’s One Foundation* Hymn 654 v 1,2**

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord
she is his new creation by water and the word
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride
with his own blood he bought her and for her life he died

Elect from ev'ry nation yet one o'er all the earth
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth
one holy name she blesses partakes one holy food
and to one hope she presses with ev'ry grace endued**.**

 **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord of all, in Jesus you have made us all sisters and brothers in Christ. There is no distinction between Gentile and Jew. There is no separation that can remove any from fellowship in Christ’s community. Blind us to our differences so that in unity we may proclaim your truth to all, for the sake of Jesus Christ in whom there is harmony and peace. **Amen.**

**WORD**

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| A reading from Acts Chapter 10**44**While Peter was still speaking (about the death and resurrection of Jesus), the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. **45**The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, **46**for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, **47**“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” **48**So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**  | Una lectura de Hechos capítulo 1044Mientras Pedro estaba todavía hablando (sobre la muerte y resurrección de Jesús), el Espíritu Santo descendió sobre todos los que escuchaban el mensaje. 45Los defensores de la circuncisión que habían llegado con Pedro se quedaron asombrados de que el don del Espíritu Santo se hubiera derramado también sobre los gentiles, 46pues los oían hablar en lenguas y alabar a Dios. Entonces Pedro respondió:47—¿Acaso puede alguien negar el agua para que sean bautizados estos que han recibido el Espíritu Santo lo mismo que nosotros?48Y mandó que fueran bautizados en el nombre de Jesucristo. Entonces le pidieron que se quedara con ellos algunos días.Palabra de Dios, palabra de vida. **Gracias a Dios**  |

A reading from Acts Chapter 15

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.’ 2And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. 3So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. 4When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. 5But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, ‘It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.’

6 The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. 7After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, ‘My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. 8And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; 9and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. 10Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? 11On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.’

12 The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. 13After they finished speaking, James replied, ‘My brothers, listen to me. 14Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. 15This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,
16 “After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, 17 so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—
even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.
   Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things 18known from long ago.”

Word of God, word of life.
**Thanks be to God.**

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

**SERMON SONG *Spirit of Gentleness* Hymn 396 v 1,4**

***Spirit, Spirit of gentleness***

***blow through the wilderness***

***calling and free***

***Spirit, Spirit of restlessness***

***stir me from placidness***

***wind, wind on the sea***

You moved on the waters,

you called to the deep

then you coaxed up the mountains

from the valleys of sleep

and over the eons you called to each thing

"Awake from your slumbers

and rise on your wing **Refrain**

You call from tomorrow,

you break ancient schemes

From the bondage of sorrow

all the captives dream dreams

our women see visions,

our men clear their eyes

With bold new decisions

your people arise **Refrain**

**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 *You Are the Seed***

You are the flame that will lighten the dark
so resplendent with hope, faith and love
you are the shepherds to lead the whole world
to waters and pastures of peace
You are the friends that I chose for myself
you’re the word that I want to proclaim

You are the new reign of God built on rock

where justice and truth are at home

**Id, amigos por el mundo**

**anunciando el amor**

**mensajeros de la vida**

**de la paz y el perdón**

**Sed, amigos mis testigos**

**de mi resurrección**

**Id llevando mi presencia**

**con vosotros estoy**

***Go, my friends, go to the world
proclaiming the great love of God
messengers to tell the way of life
peace and pardon for all***

***Be, my friends, a loyal witness
from the dead Christ arose
Lo, I’ll be with you forevermore
till the end of the world***

**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**

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

**COMMUNION SONG *Reckless Love***

Before I spoke a word You were singing over me

You have been so so good to me

Before I took a breath You breathed Your life in me

You have been so so kind to me

***O the overwhelming never-ending reckless Love of God***

***O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found leaves the ninety-nine***

***I couldn't earn it and I don't deserve it***

***Still You give Yourself away***

***O the overwhelming never-ending reckless Love of God***

When I was Your foe still Your love fought for me

You have been so so good to me

When I felt no worth You paid it all for me

You have been so so kind to me **Chorus**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Organ/Meditation on Tuesday, May 11 at 7pm**

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

Call CindyWe will continue to offer online worship.

**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** ***Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading Hymn 401 v 1,2,3***

Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading,
fashion us all anew.
It's your leading that we're needing,
help us to follow you.
 ***Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come***

Come to teach us, come to nourish
those who believe in Christ.
Bless the faithful, may they flourish,
strengthened by grace unpriced **Refrain**

Guide our thinking and our speaking
done in your holy name
Motivate all in their seeking
freeing from guilt and shame **Refrain**

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

**POSTLUDE**

**Contact Numbers**

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