

May 2, 2021

BRIGHTER DAYS!

in the presence of Jesus, our Lord and Savior

GATHERING MUSIC Maria Lyapkova

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN #856 vs 1, 3-4 *How Great Thou Art*

WELCOME/LIFE IN COMMUNITY

MISSION MOMENT

LITANY OF EASTER JOY

Leader: How good it is to believe in God,
who created us in His image.

**All: We live, we love, we laugh,
because we are like Him.**

Leader: How good it is to believe in Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

**All: For Jesus had the last laugh on the devil
when He rose from the dead.**

Leader: How good it is to believe in the Holy Spirit,
Who dances with the Creator and Jesus...

**All: Our counselor, our guide, our sustainer –
The Spirit is our joy!**

Leader: Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously,
when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours
as your children and when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world.

**All: Restore to us the joy of our salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE *Awesome God/Humble Thyself*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Lord, grant me a joyful heart and a holy sense of humor.
Please give me the gift of faith,
to be renewed and shared with others each day.
Teach me to live this moment only,
looking neither to the past with regret,
nor to the future with apprehension.
Let love be my guide, and my life a prayer.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

SCRIPTURE READING...Acts 8:26-40 (NRSV)

²⁶ 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.⁴⁰ 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.

Leader: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

SONG OF RESPONSE *Open Our Eyes, Lord*

GOSPEL READING... John 15:1-8 (NRSV)

¹⁵ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Pastor: Christ is Risen! **All: He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

MESSAGE

Brighter Days-- Connect! **Pr. Tom Grevlos**

MESSAGE SONG #665 ***Rise, Shine, You People***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

THANK OFFERING

- To make a gift online to the mission and ministry of Shepherd of the Hills, use this link: shephills.org/give.
- Take a picture of the QR Code with your camera phone to give now.
- By mail, send to 3525 Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX 78746

THIS MATTERS! HIGH-FIVE

**Keri Bellacosa Walling, Butterfly Christian Preschool
parent of Whitney and Gram**

OFFERING SONG

Give Thanks

PRAYER OF THANKS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*As we celebrate this sacrament, all are invited to receive
the Risen presence of Jesus.*

*God is really present—in bread and wine—forgiving sins
and promising
new life.*

*Bread/wafer— “The body of Christ given for you”;
Wine— “The blood of Christ shed for you.”*

COMMUNION MUSIC

BELL ENSEMBLE *There is a Balm in Gilead*

arr Patricia Cota

COMMUNION BLESSING/PRAYER

***BENEDICTION**

***COMMISSIONING SONG**

#715 vs 1-3, 5 *Christ, Be Our Light*

***COMMISSIONING**

Leader: Connected to the vine, Jesus Christ, let us go out to bear the good fruit of love, kindness, gentleness, peace, compassion, and joy... as we go out to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God...and We Will!

POSTLUDE

PRAYERS

Please pray for Kristen Murray, Walter Buell, Lauren Paulson, Ken McDonald, Don Gaskin and Pam Petterson

Please pray for Margie Robinson, mother of Debra Wissman

Thank you for all the children past and present in our Butterfly Christian Pre-School. And, thanks to all the teachers and administrators for their commitment and love for children. May all the families connected to Butterfly and the Shepherd of the Hills family continue to support and care for this special way of sharing the love of Jesus.

We pray for the children of this world, the youngest among us. We pray for children who are caught in circumstances that are frightening and beyond their control. We pray for children who are abused and neglected, and for those who serve them and work to heal them from trauma. We pray for children of immigrants at borders, for children who are orphaned, abandoned, and forgotten. We pray for your Spirit to bring peace and wholeness to the most vulnerable in our country and world.

We pray with heavy hearts for an end to violence inflicted on one another in the name of revenge and hatred. We ask for your comfort especially for the communities of Indianapolis and our own city of Austin. Give us love, respect, and care for all of your people. Fill our hearts with peace that passes all human understanding. Help us know the way forward from here.

We continue to pray for all those affected by COVID-19, and for those caring for them. We give thanks for the hopefulness we are experiencing with more and more vaccinations each week. We look forward to the continued movement toward the end of this pandemic, we pray for therapeutics and medical care to tend to those who fall ill.

Please pray for our global ministries: Rev. Karen Castillo in Guatemala; Iglesia Luterana Augustina Virgen del Rosario, Aurora 8 de Octubre, Guatemala; Malcolm and Joy Henderson and the ministry of CHARIS in Haiti

Please pray for our local ministries: Mariposa Family Learning Center, Bread For All and Upbring Ministries

Please pray for our faith community, that we may be a church without walls and live out loud...faithfully!

**Prayers for family and friends are listed for 2 weeks, unless we are notified otherwise.*

WORSHIP TEAM

Pastors	Pr. Tom Grevlos, Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner
Preaching Pastor	Pr. Tom Grevlos
Director of Worship/Arts	Kevin McClure
Piano	Maria Lyapkova
Guitar	(8:15) Josh Norem
Altar Flowers	Given by Tom & Betty Lueders, In thanksgiving for worship in our sanctuary and in celebration of God's gracious love.
AV	Bill Dawson, Dave Wegner, Pete & Amanda Forsberg
Bread	Kitt Richter
Hosts	Judy Haugen, Rick Burnight, Kitt & Glenn Richter
Creative Media	Dabney Gomes
Director of Digital Media Arts	Dave Wegner
Admin Ministry Coordinator	Amanda Forsberg

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran
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