



May 2, 2021
5th Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

Heather Hinton

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Darren Cushman Wood

PRELUDE

Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

arr. A. Leupold

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Leader: With your rising, you enlightened the human race.

People: Glory to you, O Christ our God.

OPENING HYMN

Gather Us In

***Here in our hearts new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away;
we have brought forth our fears and our dreamings offered 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.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

1 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 God loved us and sent the 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 God's love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in God and God 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 him, and he abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, 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 God 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 is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Beloved, Let Us Love

M. McDonald
Cathedral Singers

God sent his only Son to the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love.

If God so loved, Beloved, let us love one another for love is from God, and everyone who loves is born of him; and God is love. Beloved, let us love one another that we may abide in God, and he in us.

There is no fear in love. God's perfect love shall cast away all fear. By this we know we are his children when we love God and keep his Word. For whosoever is born of God overcomes the world. There is no greater love, if God so loved the world.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Psalm 22:25-31

Amy Sell

Leader: I will praise you in the great assembly.

People: I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

Leader: The poor will eat and be satisfied.

People: All who seek the Lord will praise God.

Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy.

Leader: The whole earth will remember and return to God.

All the families of the nations will bow down before the Sovereign One.

People: For dominion belongs to the Lord who rules the nations.

Leader: Let the rich of the earth feast and bow before the Sovereign One,
all who are mortal whose lives will end as dust.

People: Our children will also serve God.

Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord.

Leader: God's righteous acts will be told to those not yet born.

People: They will hear about everything the Lord has done.

HYMN OF PRAYER

Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire

***Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire, let us thine influence prove;
source of the old, prophetic fire, fountain of life and love.***

***God, through the Spirit we shall know if thou within us shine,
and sound, with all thy saints below, the depths of love divine.***

EASTER PRAYER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Alan Archibald

Leader: This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand,
and by which we pray for the world: Christ was raised and Christ is appearing.
Death has been swallowed up in victory.

**People: Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Light of the world.**

Leader: Therefore, let us pray for immigrants and refugees in this country and around the world:

**People: Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ,
who crossed every border between divinity and humanity
to make your home with us.
Relieve the suffering of immigrants and refugees**

and grant them peace and hope.
Remove all fears and hatred
that create barriers for just and merciful policies.
Revive our faith with courage and compassion
to welcome them and to see you in our midst. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Amy Sell

Leader: God, in your mercy....

People: Hear our prayer.

THE 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.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***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!***

SECOND LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

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.) 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.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Resurrecting Understanding

Darren Cushman Wood

HYMN OF DEDICATION

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

***Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.***

***Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.***

***Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.***

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord

arr. J. Honoré

Today's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood, *Senior Pastor*

Amy Sell, *Minister of Discipleship & Formation*

Alan Archibald, *Co-Chair Justice & Advocacy Team*

John Hague, James Horton & Jeff Linnan, *Audio Visual*

Mark Gilgallon, *Director of Music*

Heather Hinton, *Organist*